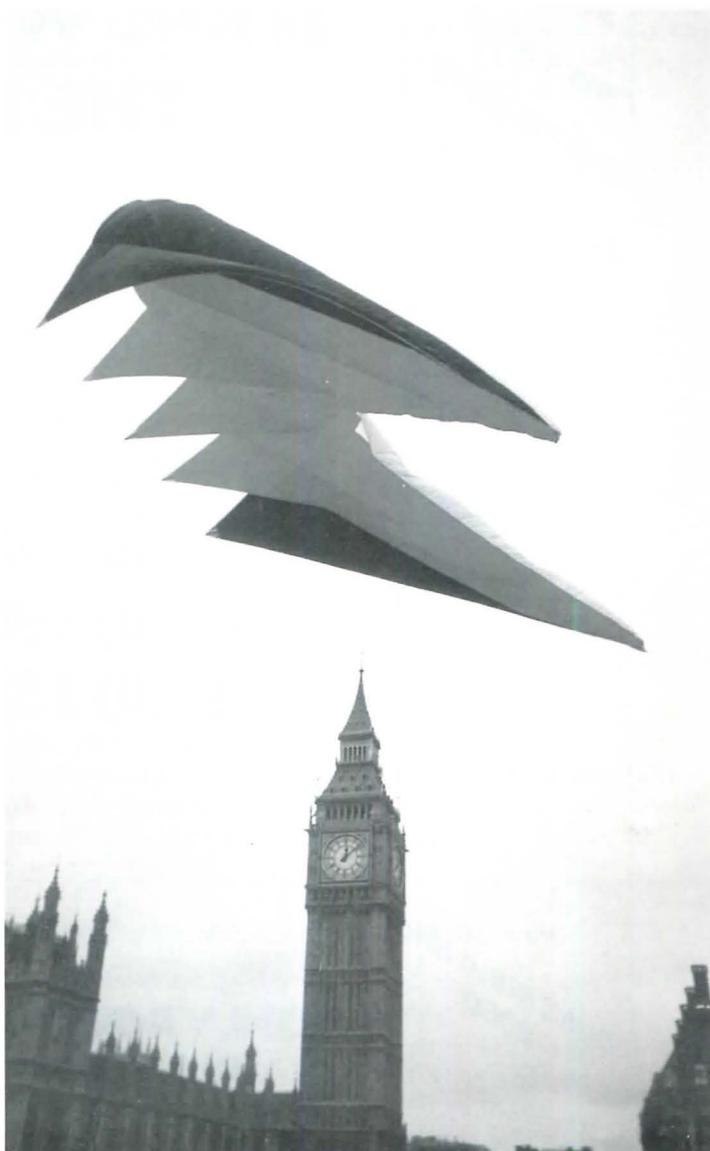


# THE KITEFLIER

ISSUE 82

JANUARY 2000

PRICE £1.90



NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE KITE SOCIETY OF GREAT  
BRITAIN

DUNSTABLE KITES  
2000

DUNSTABLE KITES  
2000

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 email: kite\_society@compuserve.com  
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My friend Bruce Barratt, a pensioner and a member of the Solent Kite Fliers and The Kite Society wanted to make a kite which was different from the other kites he had seen and he came up with the idea of the Millennium Bug. The result is below, ripstop and glass fibre tube, 8 legs, 2 antennae, measuring 52" x 62" with drogue to stabilize.

Edna Young

# EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The new year/decade/century/millennium (maybe?) is upon us and we would like to wish you all a prosperous year with plenty of kite festivals that have perfect wind and weather for all types of kites and kite fliers.

One of the major problems we have as The Kite Society is lack of information that can be distributed to all members by the magazine. We are constantly hoping that people will respond to our requests for items (and many, many thanks to those few people who did respond, the items will appear!) and once again have to ask for items. If you just flip through the pages of this magazine you can see the type of thing we want. Event reports - have you been to a festival, what did you think of it? Would you recommend it to others? Kite plans - they do not have to be elaborate or totally new, modifications to standard kites that would be of interest to everyone. How do you make a particular kite. So it goes on. Please think about it and send your articles in - most formats can be coped with - even handwriting!

Finally the dates for Dieppe have been confirmed to be September 9th - 17th. More details when we have them.

Gill and Jon Bloom

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct The Kite Society cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions that occur. Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Kite Society.



**LET'S GO FLY A KITE:** Bruce Barratt with his millennium bug kite.

## Suffer the Little Children (2)

Some time ago I wrote an article after an afternoon spent with the Alcester and Worcs. Club, when a young girl flying her new kite behind little Dave and I, was fast trashing it when only the minimum of adjustment would have ensured that it flew well. The article was construed as being highly negative in that a posse of respectable men were reluctant to be involved with helping the lass due to the feared hostility generated by real, alleged and possibly only perceived child abuse.

Discussion with a couple of kite traders (who were only too aware of the dangers to themselves), and with fellow carers and educators gave little guidance on a safe solution to the problem, so I threw it open to the kiting fraternity.

Since the kids are all in the rising or past 30 age bracket we have little experience of regular contact with young children. However devotees of my rubbish will remember odd references to "the sproglettes" who are the two young daughters of our friends Jan and Will and who have deposited many a kiddie kite around the local landscapes, including the far sands banks at Fairbourne during this year's festival.

Their chief claim to fame was cutting Annie out of the air when she foolishly allowed her sports kite to enter their killing envelope, dockyard job that one.

I serve on a committee with a lady, Pat, who has a small tribe of great nieces and nephews whom she takes on the odd jolly, you have guessed it - would I take them kite flying. They are all seriously older than the sprogs so time for a Baldrickian 'cunning plan'; I remembered that the railway magazine has carried a couple of articles before the last two kite festivals trying to wean our buffs away from consuming coal and water and taking up an environmentally friendly pastime. Quick photo-copies were despatched to Auntie Pat and the day waited with some mild trepidation.

To start that afternoon's sport I was well and truly hoist on my own petard: firstly the little dears had not only read but also learned every word of my deathless prose and were able to recognise every kite shown to them and give a brief history complete with its flying characteristics; secondly when Pat asked what style they were adopt when addressing me, I said without thinking "that my lord would suffice". This wore thin a lot faster than your average joke, so beware of throwaway lines to the literally minded young.

A rather splendid afternoon followed; most kites profered behaved and flew well, nobody let go of the line, only the occasional line crossed and snagged, and the children gave every appearance of having a whale of a time. They all seemed genuinely dismayed when Pat insisted that they had to help me pack up and come home. Another session was muted and could it please be all day next time.

The school summer holidays dawned and when everybody had holidayed, it was time to plan a mega day out with les enfants. This time the party had grown to four children, Delia (the committee Chair) bearing managerial duties, Gary a friend in a supporting role (to Delia) and bagman, Pat as whipper-in and lastly Jackie and the closet earl as providers of all things aerial. Unfortunately the weather was wet and windless but the morning went well with Gary puffing around the field with a large delta and the kids flying a variety of colourful, dampening birds.

Annie joined us for a pub lunch and we set to again in the still damp but now sunny afternoon with even greater success until Pat again called time. A trick that I learned from our young but increasingly exhausted guests is that you can fly a kite quite well if you sit on the winder and thereby have both hands free to fly with.

Spin offs; A large bottle of good red wine, Gary to come with us to Worcester to try TOG adult kite flying, I feel that we have him hooked!!!! Unable to work the following morning as nine people's kites still drying in the print room, and half term booked for our next outing.

Despite all of the above and the best of times being had by all, and I believe that was all, it has not helped to find an answer to the questions asked in "Suffer the Little Children". We couldn't find one then and the above has changed nothing.

**Big Dave of Team RIKOK.**

# WINTER CLEARANCE SALE

**EX-DISPLAY AND END OF LINE KITES  
AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES**

**THIS IS A GENUINE OFFER ON CURRENT IN STOCK  
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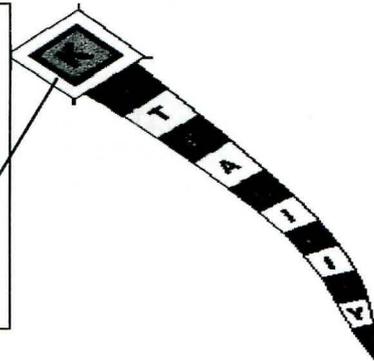
**DONT DELAY** PHONE TODAY FOR BEST DEALS  
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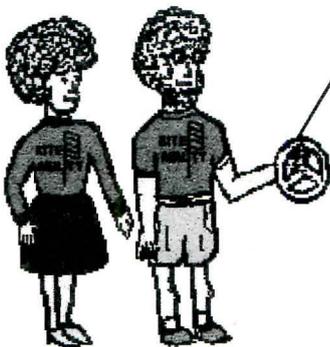


When Santa came on Xmas eve  
With gifts for boys and girls  
He also left a kite for Ron  
Among the other toy's

The label said "From him and her"  
We suppose that's' Harry and Mabel  
The doughty pair has struck again  
They're becoming quite a fable

Harry said "a gift for you  
you helped me to open a door  
as before I knew about kiteing  
life was just a bore"

"For all my bits and pieces  
there is only one place for me  
just pop an order off" he said  
To **KITEABILITY**



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homepages/patnron](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/patnron)**

**Proprietor: Mrs P Dell**

# Weymouth Beach Kite Festival

## 30th April & 1st May

The Tenth Weymouth International Beach Kite Festival will this year be held on Sunday April 30th and Monday 1st May. Saturday 29th April is reserved as a free flying day with no organised events taking place but the beach is free to be used for flying. As usual a number of overseas visitors will be there flying their particular style of kites as well as many UK based kitefliers.

The festival will run along the normal lines with a few competitions, many demonstrations and free flying. Talking of demonstrations if anyone who is thinking of attending wants to do something in the arena as a demonstration can they please contact us in advance so that we can plan it in. A childrens kite workshop will also be held on the beach.

Following the fiasco of last year we have written agreement that the arenas and control bus will be located as normal by the old aquarium. The slide that caused a lot of the problems is no longer there.

This year the usual Civic Reception with the Mayor is being held during Sunday evening and there will be basket meals available for those who want to eat and a pay bar. Everyone is welcome to come along to chat - entry is free! In the Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavillion from 7:30pm till 11:00pm. Kitefliers attending the reception will be able to view the fireworks from a reserved area on The Pavillion balcony.

For those who want to there is a slot for night flying on Sunday evening, from 9:00pm, which is followed by the usual firework display.

### Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via the Accommodation Line on 0800 765223. Reservations can be made for all classes of accommodation including caravan and camping.

### Car Parking

Again there is free parking available but space is limited. Once the tickets have gone we cannot get any more. Tickets are valid for three days, Saturday to Monday. One ticket per car for three days. Please send your request to the address below and remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope as passes will NOT be sent without one.

### Traders

Kite traders are very welcome to attend and ply their wares. The charge will be £175.00 for three days, £150.00 for one or two days which is the same as 1999. Payment for this must be with your booking which should be sent to the address below. Please make all cheques payable to the Kite Society. Note that only 15 sites are available so book early. **If you require a car pass then please send an S.A.E. to the address below. Indicate the number of passes required.**

*The Kite Society  
P.O. Box 2274  
Gt Horkesley  
Colchester  
CO6 4AY*

**BEFORE the 14th April. Please enclose a Stamped addressed envelope.**

# **British Buggy Hotline**

## **01384 257 224**

### **WHAT IS IT?**

**The BBC hotline is a telephone based voice/mail system that is there to provide up to date information on anything to do with Buggies.**

**You have the ability to listen to information; leave voice mail and if you telephone from a computer or fax machine you can receive and send faxes too!!**

### **Why Not Use The Internet?**

**Some people do not have access to the Net and hopefully this will fill the gap. Also, this service will be able to provide up to date local information on who is doing what and where. When you first start to buggy it is always more fun bugging with others, you will be able to phone the Hotline and hear where in your area people will be bugging.**

### **WHAT ELSE WILL THE SERVICE PROVIDE?**

**As time goes on we will increase the amount of information on the service including:-**

**Buggy Sites, Schools, Buying and Selling, Buggy News, Videos, Kite Calendar, Product Information, Manufacturers Information, Retailers In Your Area.**

### **WHAT ABOUT THE OUT OF DATE WEB SITE?**

**Cheeky monkey. The web site will be updated and run in parallel with the hotline, any maps etc. will be available for download however it will not contain the most recent local information.**

### **HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?**

**Just the price of the phone call.**

**No BBC money is being used to create and maintain the hotline.**

# Bits & Pieces

## Shop News

**Oggs & Doggs**, Unit 55, Top Deck, Princes Quay Shopping Centre, HULL HU1 2PQ. Tel - 01482 586246 E-mail - oggs@doggs.freeseve.co.uk.

Retail stockist of a wide range of kites. Not a dedicated kite store, we sell lots of other goodies for all the family. Most major brands stocked. 7 day opening. Contact Steve & Carol Ogden.

**Tradewind Kite** have finally got their web site up and running but have had to change the address to <http://www.tradewind-kites.demon.co.uk>. As well as showing what they sell they have also included a number of useful links on the site.

## Charity Trousers!

The following letter says it all:

"Dear Hayley, I thought you'd like to know..... We are having a special day at work, "Jeans for Genes" - you can wear jeans instead of suit trousers, and pay £1 to the organizing charity, which is researching gene defects and gene therapy in children. Now I don't often wear jeans - may not even squeeze into the last pair I bought - so I thought..... I've got these amazing kite trousers from Kites Up..... Why not? So - with a pair of plain troos handy, in case the boss throws a fit - I stroll in as usual.... Wow - what a reaction - a rich assortment of verbals from my jean-clad work-mates, but every one of them just had to smile - ok, some of them laughed - ok, a lot of them laughed. But they all had to smile. So, thanks Hayley - your super "kite trollies" made to measure (but I never found out who for) have brightened many lives today. They also appeared on a Meridian ITV "Three Minutes" program recently - I hope to get a recording of that put onto CD-ROM soon. Now all I need is a "kite trollies" windsock to match - how about it? Love & trollies - Dicky"

## Kite Stamps

Canada Post Flies Kites For Stamp Month. Canada Post released a set of four stamps featuring KITES to mark the beginning of Stamp Collecting Month. Young and old alike enjoy the spirit of flying a kite, and this ever-popular pastime is cause for celebration during Stamp Collecting Month. The four 46c stamps were available from October 1 in self-adhesive booklets of 8 stamps. Debbie Adams of Toronto designed the stamps with photography by Tom Feiler and Don Brownridge. Each of the four kites depicted represents a unique style.

Master Control, a sport kite, is used in choreographed flying competitions. Similar models are used to pull skiers, surfboarders and cyclists.

The Gibson Girl box kite enabled wartime pilots to lift radio antennas for use in emergency transmissions.

The Dragon centipede kite is an example of Chinese handcraft.

Finally, the Indian Garden Flying Carpet is a work by Toronto kite artist, Skye Morrison.

Kites have been soaring the skies for well over 2,000 years. Originally flown by the Chinese for military, religious and ceremonial purposes, as well as for sport, they are the world's oldest forms of aircraft. While kites have been replaced by more sophisticated scientific equipment, new shapes and designs are always being flown by avid kite-flyers at festivals and tournaments around the world.

## For Kite Surfers

From Peter Lynn Ltd. - Making a start, this month we have our new range of water launching parafoil type kitesurfing kites, called the "WaterFoil" and available ex NZ from now. Although, from 1993, we made some closed foils (for water launching) based on our Peel design, the first prototype of this more advanced water relaunching foil, was not made until early this year. It worked straight away. Since then there has been sporadic refinement (other things always seemed to get higher priority) until the big push for production readiness that started a month ago.

Rather different to our usual developments this has been a project that posed few significant challenges - foil technology is relatively mature - but we have found some significant innovations: The shape has an almost straight trailing edge with the leading edge being semicircular to assist water relaunching, especially when the kite

# Bits & Pieces

is being used two line - I can't understand why this has not already become the standard for water launch foils - it will.

Our valves are also interesting, being loose internal tubes that seal very well and prevent water ingress even when the leading edge is immersed to a considerable depth. For superior bursting strength and perfect sealing we have chosen to fully tape these kites before sewing using the Toray high performance adhesive transfer system. Although this adds to manufacturing time it is the only way to do the job properly and will effect our costs very little once we move to volume production early in 2000 (and we will absorb the difference until then). Another thing we have found is a way to make the kites launchable before there is any significant inflation. Although the WaterFoil flies badly when deflated, it will fly, and getting it up into some reliable wind straight away speeds inflation time, a great feature for those like myself who have absolutely zero patience! It has fully shaped individual cell panels of course, via our cad/cam system. At the start of this program our intention was to design a kite that would not compare unfavourably with other kites in it's category and then depend on our excellent manufacturing and worldwide distribution to take serious market share. We have surprised ourselves; WaterFoil's are really superb kites and would succeed even without the price, brand and distribution advantages we will apply to them.

## What's new from the Forest?

**Woolmer Forest Composites** sent - The expanded range of G-Force. Did you see that 3 out of the 4 latest freestyle kites are using G-Force spars? The S4, newest from the Mullin Kites stable, has taken advantage of the new G-Force B-Tweeney spars. These offer enhanced strength and toughness to performance parameters.

Further details from Woolmer Forest Composites who also announce the addition of pull-braided pultruded carbon fibre tubes. By incorporating a +/- 45 degree pre-tensioned braided fibre layer within the wall it creates the opportunity for tougher and stiffer tubes.

Contact Clive Davies at WFC on tel: 01428 71216, Fax: 01428 714914, email: cdavies@innotts.co.uk.

## Request for Information

Please can you tell me if you know anything about the Cambaflare designed by Tony Gilbey. As you may remember, the design was featured in Kite Lines Winter/Spring 1981. (I have this article.).

The reason for my enquiry is that John Southerton and I have each made this kite recently and we can't get it "to fly at a high angle in among the deltas" as the article says. In fact, we can't get it to fly very well at all. But judging from the Kite Lines article it appears to be an excellent kite.

What puzzles me a bit is that I've never seen one of these kites flying and I don't know anyone else who's made one. That makes me wonder if there's some problem with them. Have you any information please?

John Jordan

## Bits from the Press

**The Womens Institute** As part of the promotion for the Kite Festival that took place at Beaulieu in September members of the local WI met for a photo shoot of a different kind to promote the event! To quote from the press "Whether the ladies were themselves as high as kites is unsure but the participants had enormous fun, lots of giggles and put on extra spectacular shows for the visitors to the museum". It may, of course, have something to do with the WI yet again going topless!

**Crime and Punishment.** This is a column that appears in the London Evening Standard magazine. The issue in question was illegal street trading, and the selling of miniature kites on the streets of Westminster. In this case the trader had permission to sell door to door but was not allowed to sell on the streets - even if approached. "He was holding a small kite in his right hand" said an officer, "It was about eight feet in the air. He had a small wooden box with a strap around his neck. In the box were other kites". And so it goes on. In the end the person concerned was fined £75.00 with £100.00 costs.

**Wash your mouth out - Computer Weekly.** The Read codes have now achieved legendary status in NHS IT. They are a method of classifying medical conditions for the purpose of computer processing and have cost the

# Bits & Pieces

NHS an arm and a leg to develop. They include entries for 'Space Transport Accident' and 'Space Craft Launch Pad Accident'. There are also four sub groups for 'Manned Kite Accidents' and another category for 'Hit by Object from unpowered aircraft'. Now the Read codes have been subject to their own kind of reclassification - when asked about Read codes one health service official told a Computer Weekly reporter to wash his mouth out with soap for using such obscene language. Apparently Read codes no longer exist instead they are now known as clinical terms.

**Is it a first?** Our local commercial radio station Dream 100 has recently been broadcasting an advert for Force Nine Kites! We have not heard of any others - are they the first. The ad is, how can we put it - basic with a simple voice over saying what they sell - with kites first on the list!

**The Pyramids - A Kite Theory.** From TIME Magazine. Page 8 Dec 6, 1999.

"How do you build a Pyramid? Go Fly a Kite" Article by Dan Cray. A Californian thinks ancient Egyptians used the wind to move three-ton stones..... Kneeling before a 400 lb. concrete obelisk in the hills of northwest Los Angeles, Maureen Clemmons mutters a prayer to the ancient Egyptian God of Wind. An hour passes. Then a strong gust straightens the lines that attach the obelisk to two nylon kites, shaped like the ones used in parasailing. Soon the kites flip the obelisk and drag it across the grassy field. Clemmons and her 12 assistants erupt in cheers.

For three years, Clemmons, 42, who runs a hair-care products company and has no formal scientific training, has devoted her spare time and more than \$10,000 of her own money to solving everyone's favorite engineering enigma: how the Egyptian pyramids were built. Over the years, researchers have experimented with everything from ramps to levers in failed attempts to move counterparts of the 3-ton pyramid stones.

Inspired by the winds that buffet her home in Reseda, California, each November, Clemmons recalled that even stronger winds blow in Egypt from February through June. Then she remembered that the Egyptians mass produced linen for sail cloth, and that some of their hieroglyphs suggest that the pyramids were raised by "invisible gods in the sky". Clemmons concluded that the ancient Egyptians could have used a system of large kites to lift the pyramid stones in place.

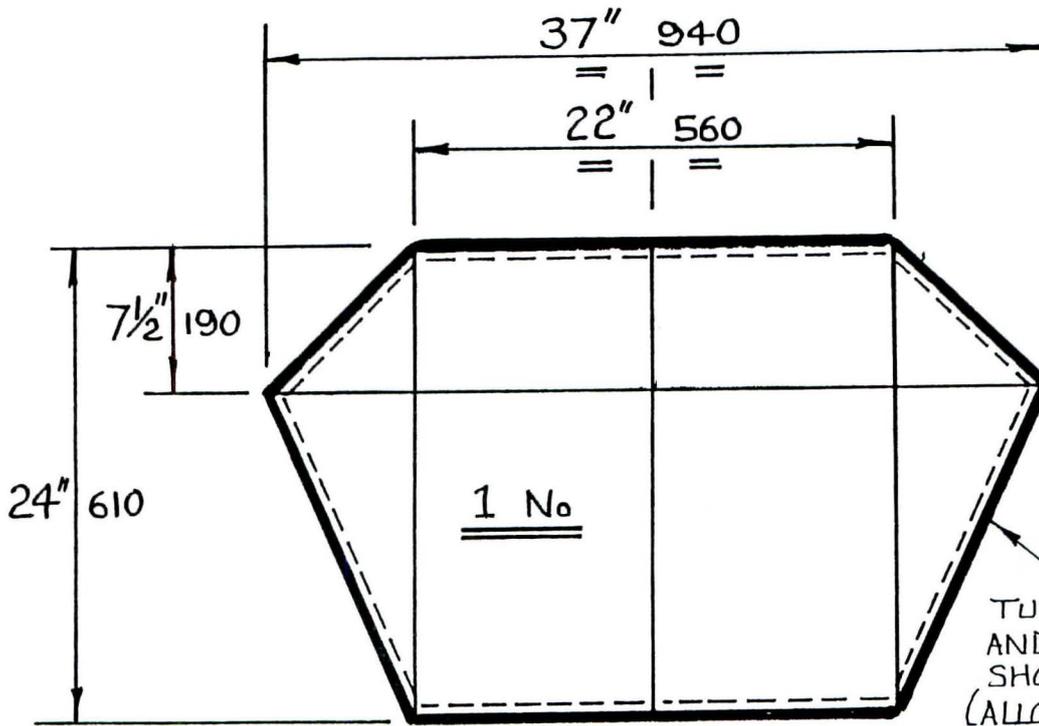
Sound ludicrous? That's what her friends said. So Clemmons did some research and conferred with Mory Gharib, an aeronautics engineer at the California Institute of Technology, who surprised everyone by endorsing her concept. According to Gharib, two 6 ft by 15 ft kites, used in conjunction with three pulleys, will easily lift the average pyramid stone in a 25 mph wind. "It needs more study" Gharib says, "but all of the math works". Others were persuaded by what they witnessed. "I thought it was bull," admits Lynn Velazquez, an administrator at Pepperdine University, who assists with the field tests. "Then I saw Maureen use a kite to lift a log and I started to believe".

The kite theory evokes a rolling of the eyes, however, from professional Egyptologists, most of whom believe the pyramid builders used ramps. Many of these experts are weary of amateurs pushing bizarre theories that often involve space aliens. "Even if Cal Tech demonstrates you can lift heavy blocks using kites, that doesn't prove the Egyptians could have built a pyramid that way," says Edward Brovanski, an Egyptologist at Brown University. Mark Lehner, a Harvard archeologist widely regarded as the leading US expert on the pyramids, was so appalled at the kite theory that he declined comment. Zahi Hawass, Under Secretary of State for Egypt's Giza Plateau, explained that "Egyptologists call people with these kinds of theories 'pyramidiots'".

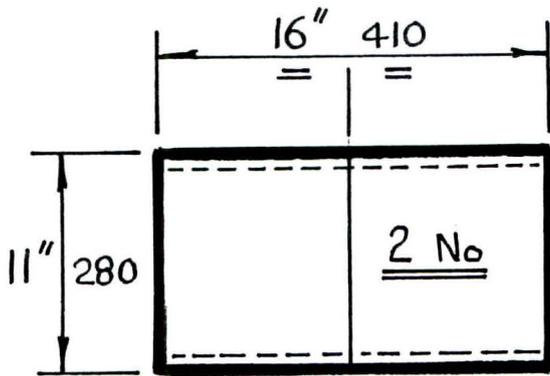
Nonetheless, Cal Tech's Gharib is drafting plans to assemble a full-scale, 15 ft wide kite for use with a pulley system capable of lifting blocks as heavy as the pyramid stones. Initial tests will take place in California's Mojave Desert, once someone secures the \$100,000 required to fund the research. To that end, Clemmons persuaded several companies to collaborate on a new perfume dubbed, "Ala" (Latin for "wing"), which goes on sale in pyramid shaped bottles in December, with all profits donated to the kite research project.

If Cal Tech's experiments are successful, Clemmons says, she wants to demonstrate her theory on a grander stage: in the shadow of the Giza pyramids outside Cairo, in what she envisions as the most notable kite flight since Ben Franklin's. In the meantime, Clemmons is taken with the idea that a hobbyist like herself might somehow scoop all the pyramid experts. "Other research expeditions had a bunch of men pushing and pulling" she says. "Mine will be me and my girlfriends with kites and a pack of beer, sitting in lawn chairs, waiting for the wind to kick up."

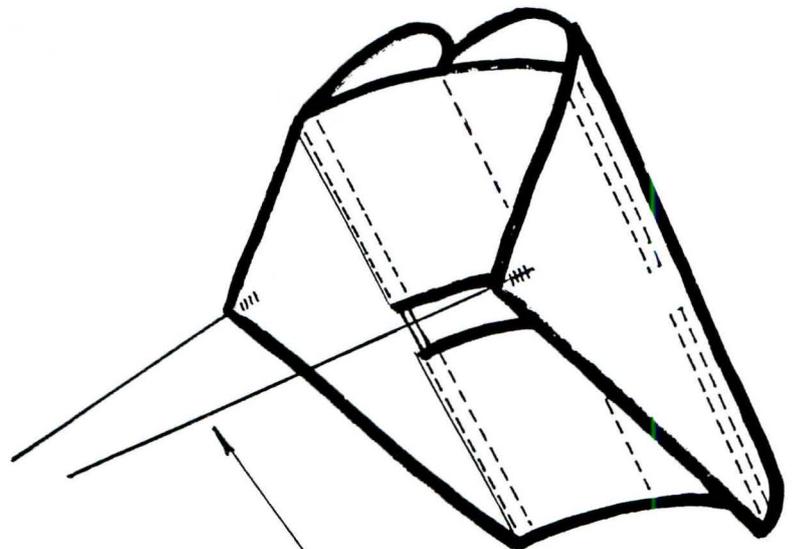
# Modified Sled Kite



TURN OVER EDGES AND STITCH WHERE SHOWN.  
(ALLOW EXTRA MAT:.)

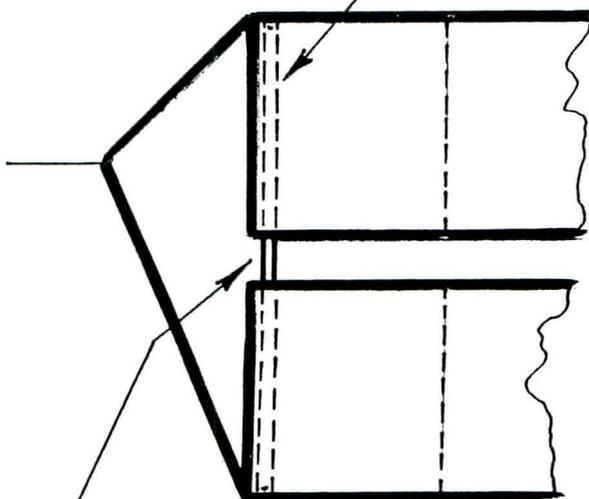


STITCH DOUBLE ROW TO FORM POCKET FOR RODS.



BRIDAL LINES 48" 1220 LONG

The modified sled illustrated here will fly in a wide range of winds and is virtually indestructible. I have made 1ft, 3ft and 4ft versions and all fly well. The 2ft is convenient and is suited to strong winds which I tend to prefer to fly in.

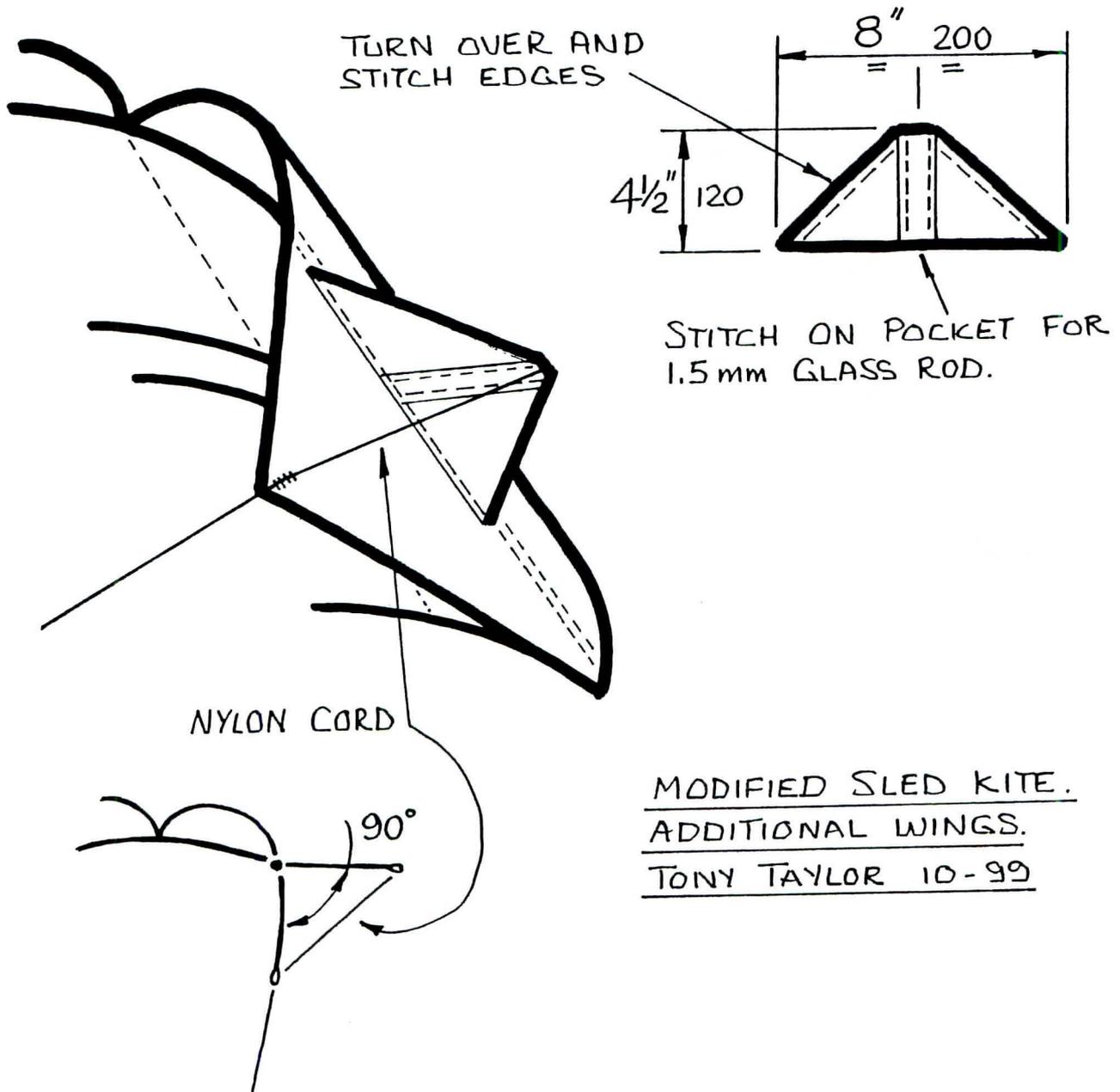


3mm GLASS FIBRE ROD (2 No)

**Tony Taylor, 10/99**

# Modified Sled Kite

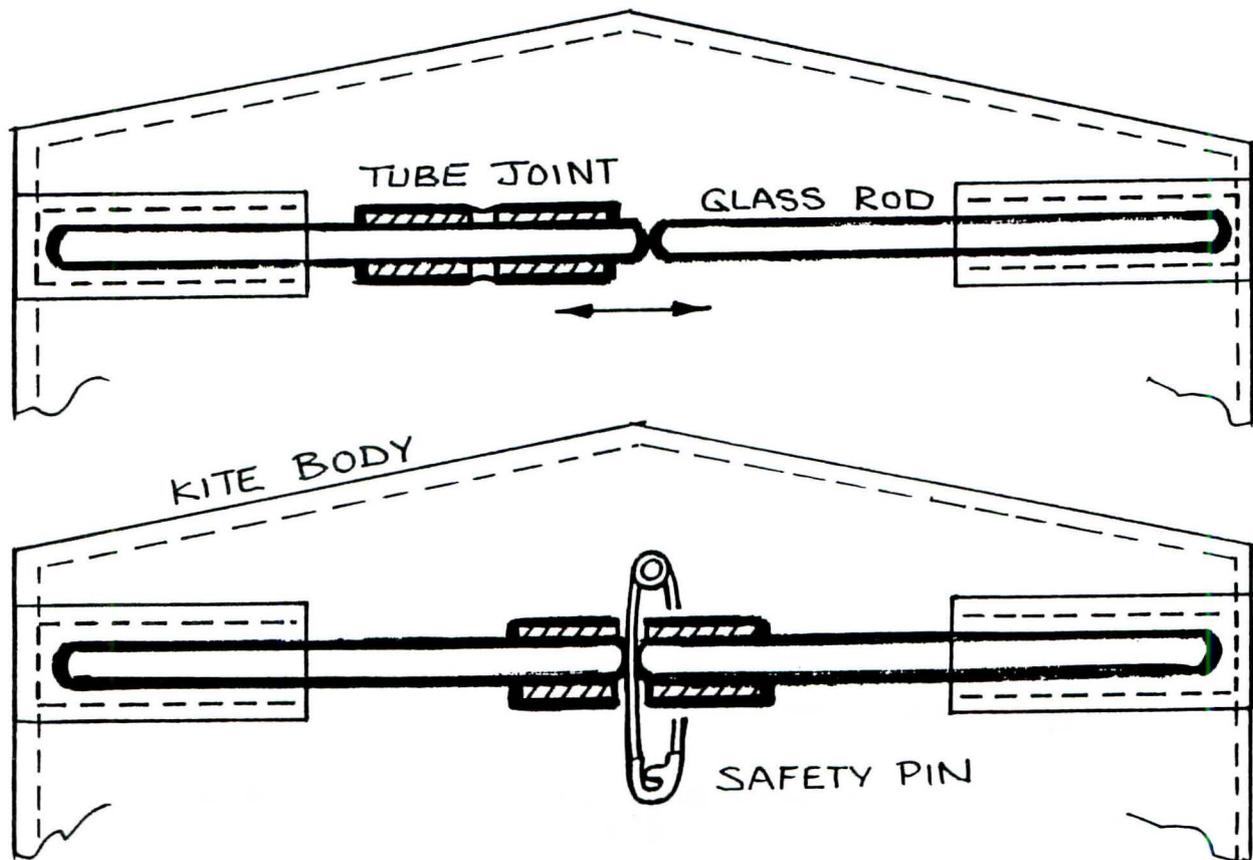
## Additional Wings



For improved stability in strong winds for the 2ft sled kite try the addition of a small wing stitched to each side, stiffen with a piece of 1.5mm glass fibre rod and held in place with a nylon cord from the bridle point.

**Tony Taylor.**

# Jointed Rods



A useful tip if you don't like to carry full length kites around is to have removable jointed rods. I use rods in standard lengths of 12" and 18", which with a tube joint I can use in a number of different kites.

For example a 3mm glass fibre rod can be joined using a piece of motor car hydrolic brake pipe. Cut off a piece approx 2" (50mm) long and drill a 1/16" (1.5mm) hole through the centre of the length. It is slipped over one rod, the other rod is lined up and the tube slid over the joint. A safety pin is then put through the hole between the two rods to make the joint secure. Other tubes can be found to slip over the various sizes of glass fibre or carbon rods to form similar joints.

**Tony Taylor**



## WOOLMER FOREST COMPOSITES

KITE SPARS & FITTINGS  
FROM THE WORLD FOR THE WORLD

### PULTRUDED TUBE & ROD

Tube from 3.0mm – Rod from 0.5mm

- SUPERTUF GLASS
  - HIGH STRENGTH & HIGH MODULUS CARBON
  - AVIA SPORT- EPSILON – PFT – STRUCTIL
- PULTRUDED – PULLWOUND – BRAIDED – WRAPPED

### G-FORCE WRAPPED SPARS ENHANCED PERFORMANCE RANGE FOR 1999

- Tapered & Non-Tapered
  - Skinny
    - Super Skinny
    - Super Dooper Skinny
    - Ultralight
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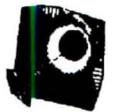
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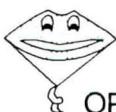


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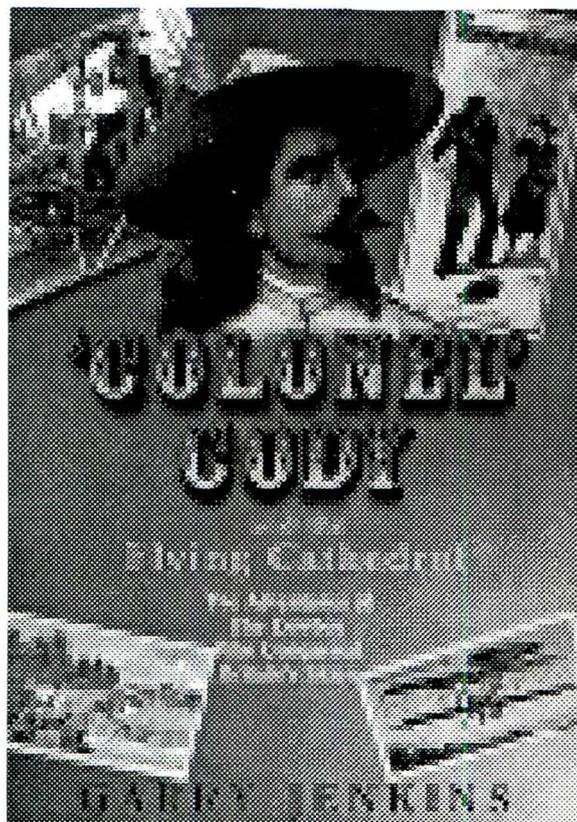
## Book Review

**Colonel Cody and the Flying Cathedral** by Garry Jenkins  
Publishers Simon Schuster ISBN 0-684-86025-2

Following on from the likes of the Pioneer of the Air, this book is the life history of Cody, however it uses information which has only just been made available to the members of the public via the Sotheby sales of Cody effects by his descendants. So we have quite a number of new photos (some of which are not captioned) and some interesting new insights to the early life and marriage of Cody. From a kitefliers point of view there is one chapter entitled Man Lifting which contains little information that is new nor many photographs which I have not seen somewhere else, however it does make for a good read even if it is obvious that the author is not a kite flier!

Overall the book is a interesting read, although I feel personally that a bibliography would have gone a long way in helping with further research. Credit is given to Jean Roberts who now lives in one of Cody's houses and has collected a great deal of information about him, along with the Drachen Foundation but I feel that the author has gone for the "good yarn" which will appeal more to the general public, rather than go into more technical details which is a shame. The book cost £14.99 (although we purchased our copy from Amazon.co.uk where it is a few pounds cheaper) and for the price it appears to me to be rather badly printed with many of the photographs not reproduce to a good quality, but despite this it is definitely one for the shelf if you are a keen kite flier. 1

**Gill Bloom**



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for the April issue..**

# Building a 16 Cell Tetrahedron

## The Kite Retrospective

The tetrahedron is a pyramid of four equilateral triangles and four faces including its base. To use this form as a kite, two faces of the triangles are covered with fabric to create a flying surface. A dihedral is formed from the two covered surfaces which act as a stabilizer in flight.

The first person to develop this shape for a kite was Alexander Graham Bell, he built many multi cell kites including some with pilots and power driven designs, but were very difficult to control in the air, and never became airborne long enough to become a true flying machine. In later years Buckminster Fuller designed a method of building a tetrahedron kite with two interlocking triangles, with a tension line in the centre to hold the triangles in shape. This method is O.K. for a single cell kite but it is still very difficult to join many cells together without adding too much weight to the kite.

## The sixteen cell (Fig. 1)

The tetrahedron is one of the most spectacular kites to make and fly. The main reason why they are rarely seen I believe is the complexity of the connectors and fittings. I have made many of these kites and have developed a very easy way of making all the fittings and for very little cost.

## Ground Rules

As with all kites that fly in a well behaved manner they need to flex and adjust naturally in the wind, so it is very important to select the correct length and width of spar material and the right weight of sail cloth. A rigid small spar will cause a skittish kite whereas a long flexible spar will make the kite very unstable.

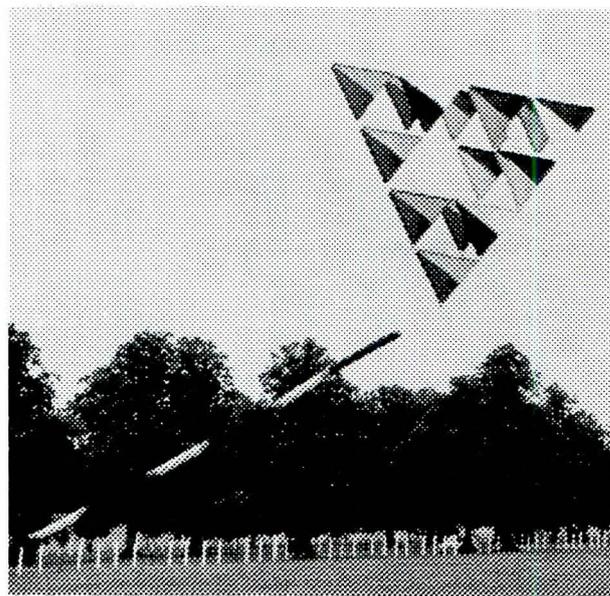


Fig.1 Tetrahedron. 16 Cell with tail.

## Construction

The kite I shall be building is a sixteen cell tetrahedron with thirty two colour panels, sixteen half panels of black, and then four half panels of green, blue, yellow and red, these can be arranged in a different pattern each time the kite is built up.

The total size 6' x 6' x 6', each cell is 18" x 18" x 18", the spars are 1/4" ramin dowel 18" long. The first 1/2" of each end is turned down to 3/16" to accept the joints.

## The Sails

The sails are hot cut out of ripstop with sewn hems round four sides (pockets for the spars) the easiest way to find the size of the sails is to construct one cell, make a paper template around the cell, remove, and cut out sixteen sail panels.(Fig. 2).

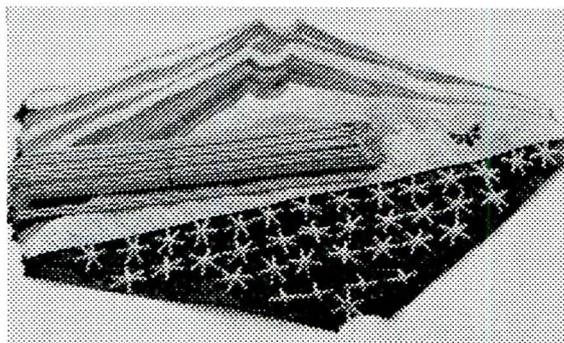


Fig.2 The sails, spars and joints

# Building a 16 Cell Tetrahedron

## Plastic Joints

All the joints described are made from 1/4" plastic tubing, it is important to punch all holes in the tubing as this stops tears and splits spreading which would lead to failure when under great pressure. The joints are lashed together with at least 80lb braided line again to take the large loading in the air, and superglue the knot to ensure the joint does not come apart.

I have used this method of joint making on many types of kites and tetrahedrons and have not had a joint failure yet. This joint construction can be used for any unusual kite fitting. I have found it very strong and reliable and very low cost to produce.

## 6 Joint Fitting

- 1 Cut three lengths of 1/4" plastic tubing 1 1/2" long
- 2 Punch a large hole through the middle of two pieces
- 3 Punch a tiny hole in the centre of the third piece
- 4 Push the two pieces of tube onto the piece with the small hole (warm in water to help fitting)  
(Fig 3)

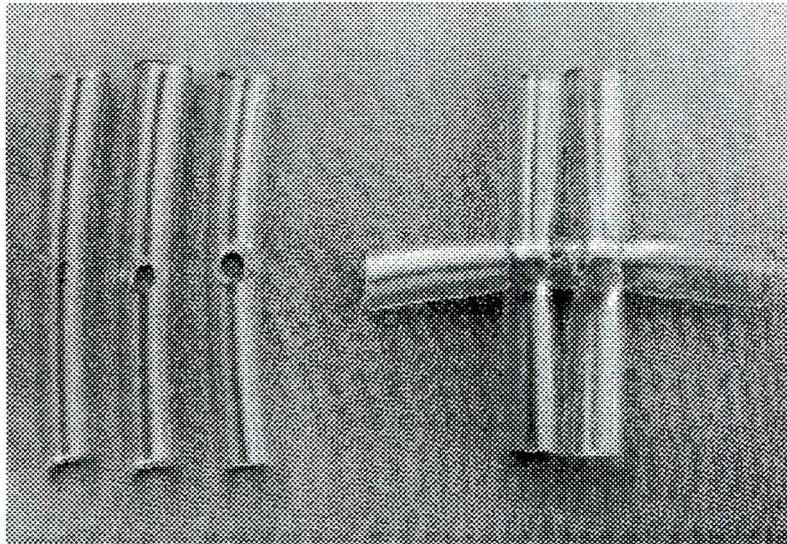


Fig 3. The six joint fitting (before lashing)

- 5 With a sleeving needle and 80lb lash the joint together going through the small centre hole, finally knot and super glue the knot.

## 3 Joint Fitting

These are for the four corners of the kite. The three joint fitting is the same method as for the six joint, again the small lashing hole is on the inside of the joint.  
(Fig 4)

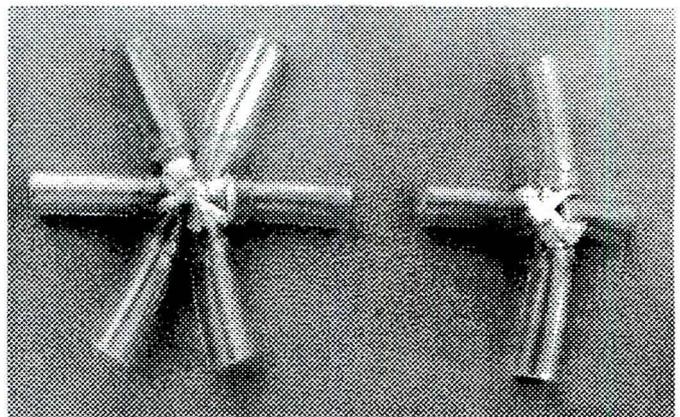


Fig 4. The finished 3 and 6 joint fitting

# Building a 16 Cell Tetrahedron

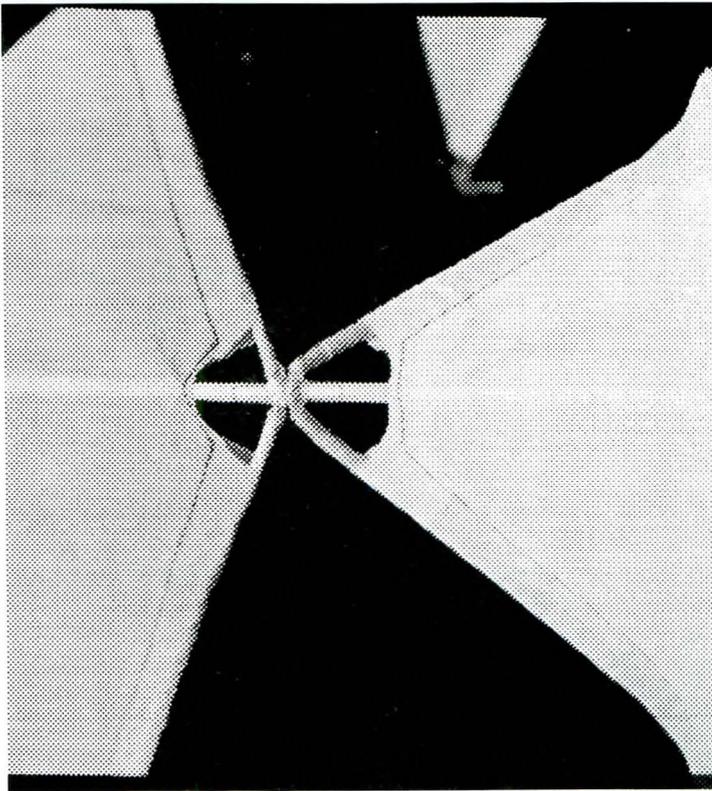


Fig 5. Six joint in the completed kite.

## Building Up

Once all the sails spars and joints are made, it is just a matter of constructing the geometric puzzle

(Fig. 5)

## Bridle

The bridle can be connected to the joint between the first and second cell at the front edge (which works well), or a two leg bridle which is connected to the top joint and bottom joint on the front edge, this will give you an adjustable towing point

It is a great kite to fly, it changes shape seen from different angles (Fig 6), it is also very stable and has an enormous pull in strong winds, if you want to fly something different then try a tetrehedron. Wind speed 12 -30mph

**Bryan Cantle**

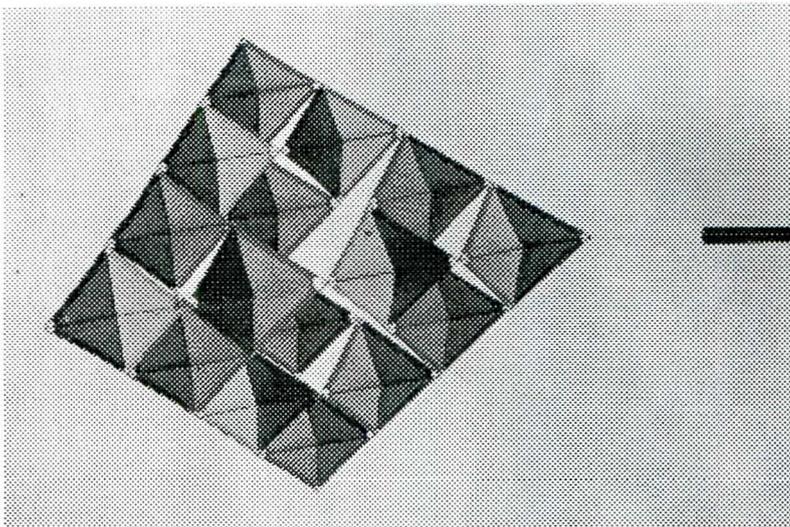
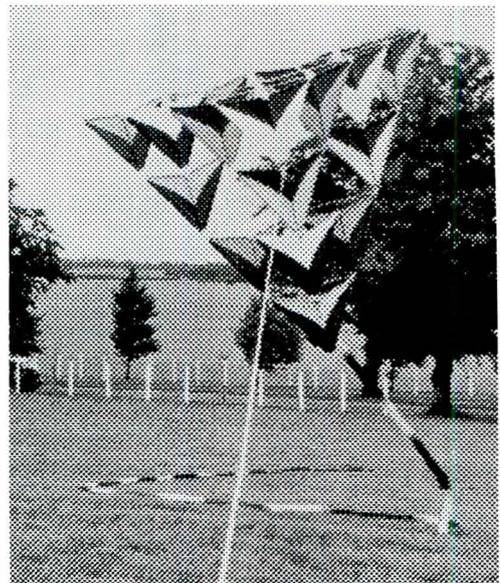


Fig 6. View of kite from underneath



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# Event Reports

## Beverley Garden and Kite Festival - 3rd May

This year we visited Beverley Garden & Kite Festival (East Yorkshire) on May Day Bank Holiday. We had warm weather and light winds, the reverse of Sunday. It was after lunch (no wind earlier) and there were quite a few types of kites in the air, including a ring and later one of the three masted ships, the first we had seen. There was this idiot flying an Indian fighter kite among people, which I thought was irresponsible. He seemed well in control of it though and had a look of the photos we'd seen of Stafford Wallace, so maybe he knew what he was doing!

There were two kite stalls there, one was Oggs & Doggs toymakers who will be there again next year. For those in the area, they have a shop in the "Top Deck" area of Princes Quay Shopping Centre in Hull city centre. They have a very wide range of kites from £2.99 mini kites to £235 Didak Pro Team Maxi power kite as well as a buggy and a kite surf board. The owners are keen kitefliers who go out on Summer evenings to fly near the Black Mill on Beverley Westwood. This is a square mile of common land, complete with cows in Summer, and is a popular place to fly, walk dogs etc.

## 2nd Cleethorpes Beach Kite Festival

We also visited the 2nd Cleethorpes Beach Kite Festival in August. We were pleasantly surprised at the large number and variety of kites in the air when we arrived before lunch on Saturday. We found a space to fly one of our largish sports kites (bought 2 years ago at Bristol for £25). A young man was impressed with the look of it and jumped at the chance to fly it. He was even more impressed with its stability and feeling of control it gave him ('Hello again' if you read this). In return he let me fly his little Extro and I was taken by surprise at it's speed as it zipped around the sky with me almost in control.

There was a family nearby who's kids had the little White Horse sleds. The parents seemed interested at our antics so we offered to give them a go on ours. They were reluctant at first as they were convinced that they would crash it into oblivion. They were both surprised when it didn't immediately crash and that it did what I said it would when they followed my instructions. They went off in the direction of the kite stalls!

We went back on Sunday with my 86 year old Mum who was entranced by it all. Martin Lester's legs waved at us as we had lunch in the Winter Gardens. They were later replaced by an pink octopus and a shark. The colourful banners and cabanas gave an exotic feel to the beach, and there were more people and kitefliers around than Saturday. A lot of sports kites had taken to the wet sandy mud as the space on the nice dry sand was very limited in width (but a mile long). We just flew my three seagull kites and I was gratified to have a mention on the P.A. about a flock of seagulls coming in to roost. (I intend to make a larger Gannet next). It was a most enjoyable weekend with a pleasant wind off the sea and warm sun and a great chance to talk with other fliers while watching the magazine pictures come to life.

**Sue and Eric Storey**

## 4th Fairbourne Kite Festival

I always think of John Turner, the painter, when I am at Fairbourne, maybe it is the railway viaduct taking trains across the Afon Mawddach estuary with the mountains behind forming a perfect backdrop, or it is just our little locomotives belching steam and smoke as they emerge from the tunnel and run down to the festival site. The magical beauty must attract many others as this year we had almost a hundred kite fliers booked in and issued with their travel passes giving them total free use of the trains for the duration of the festival.

The weather this year was an improvement of '98 in so far as Friday, when the traders and a heavy sprinkling of fliers arrived and flew, was nearly perfect; Saturday was still dry and windy but not too

# Event Reports

dramatic to prevent a superb display being flown all day; Sunday was still dry but blowing near gale-force and therefore uncomfortable OTT for most fliers other than the multi-liners.

Unscheduled drama included a large windsock disrupting rite of passage to Lillian our diesel loco, the same windsock attempting to escape by swimming to Barmouth only to be frustrated by one of the three ferries operating at the time and finally the Kite Magic buggy ejecting its pilot at the water's edge and making Barmouth, Phil will not need reminding that Fairbourne to Barmouth is 19 miles each way by road.

Saturday evening was spent consuming the brilliant buffet prepared by Stephanie and the girls at the Pavilion, trying to solve Tony Slater's Rabelesian Kite Quiz and admiring our collective performances on the video that Ann had shot during the day. We had outlined a programme for the festival if interest appeared to wane but everybody seemed well content so we let it take its own course and pace.

Sunday was overtly windy but the conditions suited the multi-line fraternity and the recovered buggysts which meant that the public who returned for the second day were entertained by another aspect of our sport/hobby. All too soon it was time to pack everything away and begin to look forward to next year's friendly Cambrian Coast Kite Festival (with steam trains) which will be from the 17th to 18th June.

**Big Dave, Team RIKOK.**

## Hunstanton Kite and Country Fair

Smithdon High School, Sunday 12th September

The kite festival was opened by the Mayor of Hunstanton at 11am followed by a display by the Sky Divers of Norwich. The weather was very warm with just a gentle breeze. ultra light kites were flavour of the day until the wind picked up in the early afternoon.

Many great display of kite flying by Team Spectrum, multi kite flying by Dark Star and a display by Sky Divers; their Hawaii Five 0 routine with 150' tails. Nigel with his giant flexifoil stack of fourteen kites and his kite flying dog.

The Great Ouse and Kent Kite Klub flew some very colourful kites including a spectacular Cody, blue and green in colour made in modern materials of ripstop and carbon flown by Mr Mullen of the Great Ouse Kite Fliers. The Cambridge Nightmare teams first display was a demonstration of flexifoils newest kite for buggying and surfing which was the 'Blade' and went on to their man lift with a stack of 12' flexis hoisting their man lifter into the sky.

Plus a display of buggying by one of their young team members executing very sharp 180 degree turns each end of the arena. Towards the end of the afternoon we had a display of multi kite flying by Carl of Team Spectrum, his first public showing of his routine.

We would like to thank all the stall holders, kiteflyers, and teams for supporting our festival this year, and a special thanks to Geoff Oval for being our M.C. for the day, the Great Ouse and Kent Kite Klub for the colourful display of kites and banners and finally the Kite Society for their support. We hope you can all join us again next year - September 10th for the Hunstanton Festival 2000

The Hunstanton and District Rotary Club would like to thank all the Kiteflyers and visitors for raising well over £3000 for charities

**Bryan Cattle**

# Millennium Kite Fly

During the last twenty years or so of kite flying, I have had the honour via kites to be in some interesting situations but I think that being allowed to have your own exclusive enclave on Westminster Bridge right in front of Big Ben and only 50 metres from one of the firework barges just before the Millennium rates as one of the best.

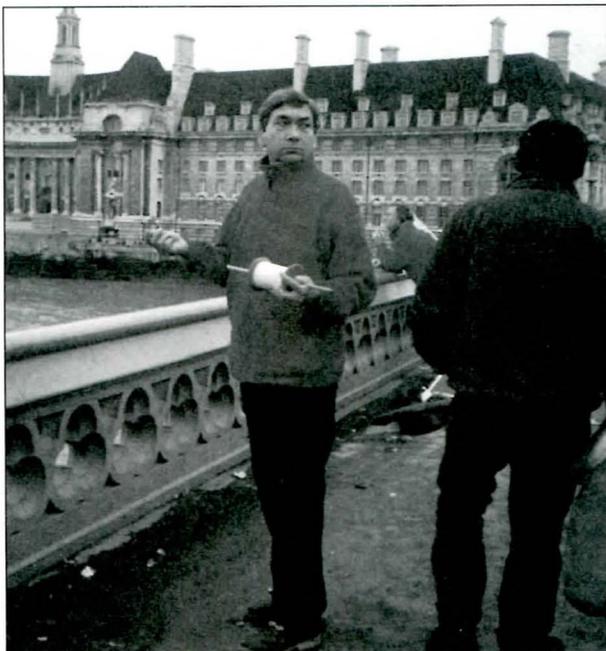
The original idea for the Millennium Kite Fly was that eight of London's bridges would have kites (both multi and single line) flying from them for most of the day and into the night. There would be roving kite fliers, kite workshops, Indian fighting displays and large inflatables. However, the authorities in their wisdom decided late in the run up, that the number of bridges to be flown from was cut to three - Westminster, Lambeth and Southwark - with one of these (Lambeth) only being available from 5:00pm. Chris Matheson, the organiser, must have been tearing his hair out by that time as he had arranged for a good selection of kite fliers to attend. These included David Brittain, David and Susan Gomberg, Marco Cassadio, Martin Lester, Stafford Wallace, Mac fighters, Anne Harris and the White Horse Kite Fliers with Ron and Marla Miller in attendance once again (they must have a season ticket for BA by now) plus a number of two and four line fliers.

The day dawned (December 31st by the way!) grey and with the kite event organisers nightmare - practically no wind!

People and their kites were deposited on the bridges. Westminster was vehicle free, but still fairly full of strolling people even at 10.30am in the morning. The bridge is 84 feet wide and with a very light and fickle wind it was necessary to long launch the kites across the bridge dodging pedestrians, cyclists, joggers and the occasional police car. Soon a few small kites were decorating the skyline with quite a good backdrop, the Millennium Wheel ominously



Marla Miller Getting Ready for Mid-day.



Stafford Wallace - Looking for wind!

close in the background and yes, there were bets going on how long before someone got a kite on the wheel, no one did but that was mainly because the wind was so light that any kite flights were fairly short. One of the White Horse Kite Fliers did manage to get a Wallace and Gromitt kite into the water and yours truly got a parafoil around one of the decorative light standards! David Gomberg managed to get up one of his big soft kites and rather foolishly attached a tail to the line but that was fairly quickly removed. Even Stafford was having trouble but he managed to buzz the passing pleasure boats as they appeared from under the bridge. Soon some of the multiline fliers arrived as where they were flying on Southwark Bridge was deserted. Even they had problems with the light wind. Also everything - kites, lines, handles - that came into contact with the road surface was soon covered with a thick black oily deposit, which should prove interesting to remove. Later Martin Lester appeared, having tried to fly off the top of the Royal Festival Hall building without much success.

By the afternoon the crowds on the bridge were beginning to thicken and it became apparent that it would be dangerous to attempt to fly kites as the wind had still not come up and there was now no room to spread out across the bridge. Baggage and kites were removed and the flying enclave reduced to a small area. Meanwhile at Potters Field Chris Harris and assistants did manage to get most of the large inflatables up including Merlin, although he did say at the end it was very much like Glastonbury - a sea of

# Millennium Kite Fly



Millennium Wheel plus kite approaching.

mud, and once they started to illuminate things the inflatables were in danger of catching fire.

Meanwhile we had gone off to the Albert Hall for a prom concert and did not return to the bridge until around eight thirty. The crowds were huge! and Westminster Bridge had been closed to any more pedestrians for safety reasons. Fighting our way to the police line the flash of our Big Time kite passes allowed us back onto the bridge and we spotted Susie Gomberg still defending the kiteflying enclave from the surrounding crowds. Pushing our way through the crowds, many of them supporting our cause with light hearted jests of "There are people here desperate to fly kites" we managed to arrive at the front with only three and a bit hours to go before midnight! It's amazing how long time takes to move when you have this huge clock chiming out every 15 minutes (Big Ben for those who don't know), I did spend half an hour or so flying a well constructed White Horse Kite Fliers sled so we could say that the kite fliers did manage to put on a display unit! 11o'clock, however one green sled was probably not what the organisers had in mind!

Midnight came along with the most amazing firework display and the exultations and sheer amazement of 3 million people and then we only had the problem of getting off the bridge and making our way back to the hotel at Euston. Unfortunately we

were the only ones who knew our way around London so we set of crocodile fashion and arrived back at the hotel an hour and a half later, foot sore but all in one piece (except for David and Susan Gomberg who we lost shortly after leaving Westminster Bridge), what a night!!

In hind sight the Big Time organisers obviously underestimated the space kite flyers needed, but had we had a good wind there would have been one hell of a display with the number of big kites available; still maybe our kiteflying descendants will have better luck in 2999 - maybe they will be able to order the wind by then - now there's a thought!



Many of the crew with just 15 minutes (and 12 hours) to go.

*G.Bloom*

# Event News

## 11th Caernarfon Kite Festival and Retreat 7th - 9th April

Coach Inn Clynnog Fawr on the A499 - 10 miles south of Caernarfon. Come and spend a pleasant weekend at this location which must have one of the most beautiful settings in the country for a kite weekend. It is within 20 minutes drive of Snowdon.

The fun starts on Friday evening usually with a video shown in the large function room which is also used for indoor kite flying - single line only, juggling, indoor boomerangs and the ever popular paper aeroplane contest.

There is a choice of two flying sites depending on the weather. Accommodation can be in the Coach Inn itself which has excellent B&B facilities or you can use the bunk house, sleeps 18, for £3 per head per night. The third option, if you are camping or caravanning, is to use the ground round the Coach Inn and this is free of charge. Martyn Lawrence and Kiteability (Pat and Ron) will be attending.

There is always a warm welcome waiting for you and some people enjoy it so much that they stay on for a weeks holiday. So why not kick the season off to a flying start and share the air with us in Wales. For accommodation details, maps etc please contact Coach Inn on 01286 660212. For any other information please phone me, Tony Slater on 01743 235068.

## Swindon Kite Festival - 13th and 14th May

This will be the tenth Swindon Kite Festival, which will be in the usual format, that is very laid back, without any organised events as such, that's not to say that there won't be an arena. There will be! So if any "Teams" wish to come along for "Early Season" practice, they will be more than welcome. There are plenty of Runways for the Buggy fraternity, however you must be a member of the BBC to buggy, they cover the insurance for bugging at the festival.

The entrance fee will be halved to members of visiting clubs on production of a valid club membership card, camping is available on site, there is a fee for camping & caravans. On the Saturday evening we will be holding the normal social, with a raffle, it would be great if you can support the raffle by buying tickets or donating a prize. The raffle helps to fund the Festival, which is financed completely by the club, don't forget all of the entrance fees go to the Science Museum! (and the campsite fees).

The Swindon Kite Festival, has earned the reputation over the years as the "Kite Flyers Festival" so please come and support it. To quote Fritz Jansma "Its the best inland kite site in Europe".

Any further information please do not hesitate to contact me, on 01793 824208

Dave Robinson, W.H.K.F.

## Tewkesbury Kite Fun weekend 27th, 28th and 29th May

A cutting list is now available for the Karl Longbottom Rokkaku workshop, ready cut kits will also be available. Cost of workshop will be £12.00 plus material. Places need to be booked before the end of March 2000. Any enquires can now be made by email at:-

Neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk. Telephone 01684 295132 after 6.00pm. Or write to 9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 8QX

# Event News

## New Ashdon Kite Festival - 4th June

Since the start of the Ashdon Kite Festival it has had a site in two meadows flanked by rather large trees which have caused many problems for the kite flyers and teams.

I have been asked to evaluate a new festival site by the festival committee. Using the same main entrance as the old site, the new festival field is a very large open grass field completely free of trees at a slightly higher altitude - perfect for kites and large enough to accommodate the whole festival and parking, with all amenities close to the arena.

For more information please contact Andrew Eyles, 01799 584339.

## East Coast Kite Festival June 10th and 11th

The first East Coast Kite Festival to be held over the weekend of 10th and 11th June 2000 at Low Road Recreation Ground, Dovercourt, Essex, the festival will include a Kitesurfing event on the first day and it is hoped that we will attract some of the country's leading exponents of this exciting new angle on Power kite flying. The first day of the festival will also be an informal flying day for the public too.

Day two will be based again at Low Road and will include an exciting range of arena based displays. There will be on site catering and admission to the festival is free!

Please Contact Force Nine on 01255 221059 if you would like info on entry to the Kitesurfing competition or for details on camping for the weekend.

## Southampton Kite Festival - 17th and 18th June

Lordshill Sports Ground, Redbridge Lane. Southampton.

Solent Kite Flyers in conjunction with Southampton City Council and Coles Fun Fair would like to invite all kite fliers to this enlarged event, the major emphasis being on having fun at a relaxed and friendly festival with lots to see and join in with.

The weekend is open to all types of kites and buggies with limited camping on site if pre-booked. Entrance is free but car parking is limited and passes will be required for on-site access. A limited number will be available nearer the date by post. (S.A.E. will be required.)

There will be a number of kite traders and craft stalls on site as well as refreshments, a Children's Kite Workshop and over the weekend various special competitions and flying displays, along with a STACK Competition on Saturday, the exact form of this is yet to be confirmed. We also hope to have a local Schools Kite Design Competition that will be taking place alongside the general kite flying areas. We will also be having Night Flying on the Saturday Evening, so bring those lights along.

Access to the site will be signposted locally, the main route being via the M27 J.3. and M271 J.1. Flying will be from 10.00am to 5.30pm. each day with a height limit as notified at the event.

For more information please contact Michael Lowe. 44. Bellemoor Road. Shirley. Southampton. Hampshire. SO15 7QU. Tel. 02380 770788.

# Kite Event Calendar

|    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
|    | <b>January</b>   |    |   |
| 23 | Rivenhall Airfield, Essex. <a href="#">Essex Kite Group</a>  | 10 | East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. <a href="#">Michael Howard 01255 221059</a>  |
|    | <b>February</b>  |    |   |
| 4  | 1st World Sports Kite Championship, Langkawi, Malaysia. (Until 11th).  | 11 | East Coast Kite Festival, Dovercourt, Essex. <a href="#">Michael Howard 01255 221059</a><br>Peterborough Kite Festival. <a href="#">Peter West</a>  |
| 6  | South Weald Park, Brentwood, Essex. <a href="#">Essex Kite Group</a>   | 17 | Southampton Kite Festival. <a href="#">Michael Lowe</a><br>Fairbourne Kite Festival, Fairbourne and Barmouth Steam Railway, Gwynedd, Wales. <a href="#">01562 66102</a><br>Teston Bridge Kite Fly Weekend, Maidstone, Kent. <a href="#">Kiteability</a> |
| 20 | Galleywood Common, Chelmsford. <a href="#">Essex Kite Group</a>  |    |   |
|    | <b>March</b>   |    |   |
| 5  | Hylands Park, Chelmsford. <a href="#">Essex Kite Group</a>   | 18 | Southampton Kite Festival. <a href="#">Michael Lowe</a><br>Fairbourne Kite Festival, Fairbourne and Barmouth Steam Railway, Gwynedd, Wales. <a href="#">01562 66102</a><br>Teston Bridge Kite Fly Weekend, Maidstone, Kent. <a href="#">Kiteability</a> |
|    | <b>April</b>   |    |   |
| 1  | Berck International Kite Festival, France. Runs until the 10th   |    |   |
| 16 | Old Warden Kite Day, Old Warden, Biggleswade.  |    | <b>July</b>   |
| 25 | Sport Kite retreat with Chris Matheson, Portugal. Until 1st April <a href="#">Natural Heights</a>  | 8  | Brighton Kite Festival, Brighton. <a href="#">Brighton Kite Fliers</a> <b>Provisional</b>   |
| 30 | Weymouth Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset. <a href="#">The Kite Society</a><br>East Yorkshire Kite Festival, Beverley Race Course. <a href="#">Jean Welsh 01423 867114</a>  | 9  | Brighton Kite Festival, Brighton. <a href="#">Brighton Kite Fliers</a> <b>Provisional</b>   |
|    | <b>May</b>   | 15 | 3rd Siloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. <a href="#">Ian Gilmore 01900 881371</a>   |
| 1  | Weymouth Beach Kite Festival, Weymouth, Dorset. <a href="#">The Kite Society</a><br>East Yorkshire Kite Festival, Beverley Race Course. <a href="#">Jean Welsh 01423 867114</a>  | 16 | Petworth Kite Day, Petworth Park, West Sussex. <a href="#">Joanna Mersey</a><br>3rd Siloth Kite Festival, Cumbria. <a href="#">Ian Gilmore 01900 881371</a>   |
| 6  | Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks. <a href="#">White Horse Kite Fliers</a>   |    | <b>August</b>   |
| 7  | Stowe Kite Festival, Stowe Gardens, Bucks. <a href="#">White Horse Kite Fliers</a>   | 6  | Royston Kite Festival. <a href="#">Tony Bradford</a> .  |
| 13 | Suffolk Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. <a href="#">P J Phillips 01473 464095</a><br>Swindon Kite Festival. <a href="#">White Horse Kite Fliers</a><br>Traction/Surf kite retreat with Jason Furness, Portugal. Until 20th. <a href="#">Natural Heights</a> . | 12 | Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent. <a href="#">Kiteability</a>   |
| 14 | Suffolk Kite Festival, Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. <a href="#">P J Phillips 01473 464095</a><br>Swindon Kite Festival. <a href="#">White Horse Kite Fliers</a>   | 13 | Teston Bridge Kite Festival, Maidstone, Kent. <a href="#">Kiteability</a>   |
| 20 | Cleethorpes Beach Kite Festival. <a href="#">Andrew Pidgen</a>   | 26 | Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants. <a href="#">The Kite Society</a> .  |
| 21 | Cleethorpes Beach Kite Festival. <a href="#">Andrew Pidgen</a>   | 27 | Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants. <a href="#">The Kite Society</a> .  |
| 27 | 4th Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend, Tewkesbury, Glos. <a href="#">Neville Wing</a>  | 28 | Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common, Hants. <a href="#">The Kite Society</a> .  |
| 28 | 4th Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend, Tewkesbury, Glos. <a href="#">Neville Wing</a>  |    | <b>September</b>  |
| 29 | 4th Tewkesbury Kite Fun Weekend, Tewkesbury, Glos. <a href="#">Neville Wing</a>  | 2  | International Kite Contest, Detmold, Germany. Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol. <a href="#">Avril Baker</a>   |
|    | <b>June</b>  | 3  | International Kite Contest, Detmold, Germany. Bristol International Kite Festival, Ashton Court, Bristol. <a href="#">Avril Baker</a>   |
| 3  | Basingstoke Kite Festival, <a href="#">Al Cosgrove</a>   | 9  | Dieppe International Kite Festival, France. Runs until the 17th.  |
| 4  | Basingstoke Kite Festival, <a href="#">Al Cosgrove</a><br>Ashdon Kite Festival <a href="#">Andrew Eyles 01799 584339</a>   | 10 | Hunstanton Kite Festival, Smithdon High School, Hunstanton. <a href="#">Bryan Cantle</a>  |
|    |  | 24 | Old Warden Kite Day, Old Warden, Biggleswade.   |

# Event Contacts

| Contact                 | Address  | Telephone                      |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Alan Williams           | Blackwater Valley Service, Ash Lock Cottage,<br>Government Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2PS | 01252 334225<br>Or 0976 533749 |
| Kites Up                |  | 01256 812487                   |
| NKG                     | Ron Ogden, 41 Ashfield Drive, Clayton Bridge,<br>Manchester M40 1WJ                        | 0161 682 9308                  |
| Kruzy Kites             |  | 01271 346033                   |
| Sky Kites               | 17 The Oval, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9ER   | 0208 302 8203                  |
| The Kite Society        | P.O. Box 2274, Gt Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4AY  | 01206 271489                   |
| White Horse Kite Fliers | P.O. Box 585, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 4YR   | 01793 824208                   |
| Kiteability             | 2 Garfield Road, Ponders End, Enfield, Middlesex EN3<br>4RP. Email: patnron@compuserve.com | 0208 804 9080                  |
| Al Cosgrove             | 18 Loggon Road, Basingstoke RG21 3PH   | 01256 421800                   |
| Midlands Kite Fliers    | Doug Richardson, 19 Wigsley Close, Doddington Park,<br>Lincoln LN6 3LD                     | 01522 884744                   |
| Peter West              | 27 Milton Way, Peterborough, Cambs PE3 9AP   | 01733 269687                   |
| Sky Bums                | 7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2<br>5EW                                | 01743 244677                   |
| Michael Lowe            | 44 Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hants SO15<br>7QU                                 | 02380 770788                   |
| David Ellison           |  | 0181 449 8609                  |
| Malcolm Goodman         | 134 Thames Road, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5EX  |                                |
| Joanna Mersey           | Bignor Park, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1HG  | 01798 869214                   |
| Ray Oakhill             | 'Spindrift', 6 Hartfield Road, Saltdean, Sussex BN2 8RE                                    | 01273 306842                   |
| Neville Wing            | 9 Howard Road, Tewkesbury Glos GL20 8QX. Email:<br>Neville@nwing.fsnet.co.uk               | 01684 295132                   |
| Ian Gilmore             |  | 01900 881371                   |
| Whaam Kites             |  | 01708 864074                   |
| Terry Dabinett          | 13 Cowen Close, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8JF   | 01460 74655                    |
| Chris Saunders          |  | 01202 451195                   |
| Andrew Pidgen           |  | 01472 323004                   |
| Avril Baker             | 5 Lilymead Avenue, Wells Road, Totterdown, Bristol BS4<br>2BY                              | 0117 977 2002                  |
| Bryan Cattle            | 21 Shepherds Close, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 4HP                                       | 01223 243825                   |
| Kreative Kites          |  | 01635 528400                   |
| Brighton Kite Fliers    | Simon Hennessey. Email: s_hennessey@bigfoot.com  | 01273 582309                   |
| Bath Kite Soc.          | Barry Savell (barry@savell.demon.co.uk)<br>Zoe Hancock exxzvh@bath.ac.uk                   |                                |
| Neville Wing            |  | 01684 295132                   |
| Fred Apperley           | 9 The Meadows, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire B50 4AP.                                      | 01789 778424                   |
| Ken Knight              | Dimmer, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7NR.   | 01963 351482                   |
| BBC                     | British Buggy Club, Mike Shaw  | 0468 765887                    |
| Natural Heights         | Karen Murray, 5 Northbourne Road, London SW4<br>7DR.                                       | 020 7 498 2266.                |

## UK ADVENTURE '99: PART 1

### SUNDERLAND KITE FESTIVAL

**O**ver the years I have often read about how great the Sunderland Kite Festival is... now I was going to find out first hand as I had been sponsored to go there by Malcolm Goodman (who, by the way, has invited me before but his festival dates have always clashed with my other committed invitations) and then to the Brighton International Kite Festival a week later.

I was met at Heathrow Airport by my friend and organiser of the Brighton Festival Ray Oakhill. I spent two great days with him and his wife Doreen at their home in Brighton, then Barry Pitman and I took the 9 hour bus trip to Newcastle. We were met there by Lloyd Berriman who was going to be my official baby-sitter... and I might also add to all the

o t h e r international guests - that if you are looking for fun, laughter and a frolicking good time... you will not find it on the 9 hour bus trip from Brighton to Newcastle!

Lloyd drove us to the hotel where all the kites were

staying, it was great seeing so many old friends - some I had only just shared a flying field with a few weeks previously in another part of the world: it is indeed a very small world! It's always a pleasure meeting other flyers that you have never met before, Malcolm was there to greet us and to fill us in on what was going down, ready for the next morning's meeting with the news media etc. Malcolm was very concerned about the weather forecast as it apparently rained at last year's festival... I put my arm around him ... put his head on my shoulder... and said, "No worries mate - at

# aerodyne

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## the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

9.00am in the morning the sun will shine and keep shining for the whole festival.". He looked up at me with a big smile on his face and said, "Could I have that in writing?!". And sure enough at 9.15am (okay so I was out by 15 minutes but no one is perfect!) the sun came out and we were blessed with good weather throughout the event, except for a two minute tiny shower on the last day just before the end of the festival.

The festival was everything and even more than I had heard and read about, exceptionally organised with everything running so smoothly, plenty of room for all the flyers to do their thing in entertaining the thousands of spectators every minute throughout each day. And the real beauty of it - there was no one running around giving orders or telling flyers what to do, everyone just seemed to know. I really liked the

harmony in the way all the flyers worked together to help make sure the festival was a huge success - and indeed it certainly was. For me it was a real pleasure to see and to feel the respect all the flyers had for each other, I was greeted warmly and everyone was very friendly to me wherever I went. "Now Malcolm - the cat is out the bag!", I know your secret - why your festival is a World class successful event!!! With the flyers and all those wonderful volunteers working together as a team you have the right combination for a

### BRIGHTON KITE FLYERS AGM 2000

- ◆ **Date/Time:** Wednesday 23 February 2000/7.30pm
- ◆ **Venue:** The Downs Hotel/Woodingdean
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 356 059
- ◆ **Contact:** Simon Hennessey  
Tel: 01273 582309/email: s\_hennessey@bigfoot.com

**A**n invite to all club members to attend this year's Annual General Meeting. We usually meet in the bar beforehand - the door in the corner at the far right hand end of the bar leads upstairs to the Function Room. Hope to see you there.

**Toody Oakhill (BKF Editor)**

very successful kite festival.

Each day the sky was filled with beautiful kites, a rainbow of colour, Chinese dragons, animals, birds, Japanese kites of every description, Box kites, Rokkakus, Fighter kites, 2-3-&-4 line Sport kites etc, flown by some of the World's best kite flyers and kite makers. Some came from as far away as India, Indonesia, China, Canada, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Italy, plus flyers from all over the UK. There was something for everyone to watch, great demonstrations from teams, individuals, kite bugging, Rokkaku battles, Fighter kite battles and, always a great favourite for kids from 1 year old to 90 plus; the parachuting teddy bears! Outside of the flying arenas there were huge marquees selling affordable arts and crafts, a children's village, face painting, kite making, fairground rides, storytelling and so much more to delight all ages of children. For the adults - 'Folkworks' presented an international music programme featuring sounds from around the world, bands, singers and dancers, plus an array of street performers which were hilarious to say the least... especially the wacky Aussies' Police on Emus!

This was a festival at its finest - congratulations to the City of Sunderland and to Malcolm Goodman for an awesome festival. On behalf of all the international flyers I would like to thank you and your lovely wife Jeanette for the great evening we all shared together at your home, excellent food, wine and beer. One of the highlights was watching my good friend Mikio Toki from Japan packing away the chicken legs... he must have eaten four big legs on top of everything else, I don't know where he put it all, but mind you I must say the six pieces I had were delicious! It was a great evening - the other highlight was spending time in your kite and computer room (or I should say kite museum?) which is by far the best collection I have ever seen in someone's home, you must be very proud.

Thank you Malcolm for your sponsorship, I had a terrific time. Your festival was a huge success and I hope in some small way I was able to add something to help make it so. Also many thanks to all the kite flyers and those wonderful volunteers that made me feel so very welcome, I hope to meet many of you again next weekend at Brighton and also at Bristol in September... "Good Stuff!".

Thank you for listening

**Ray Bethell (BKF/Vancouver/Canada)**

### HOW GREEN IS MY SPORT?

**T**his little conundrum has been floating around in what passes for my brain for quite some time now - categorised under 'file and forget'. It would have (conveniently) stayed there except for a conversation with Phil Scarfe of the WHKF at the 1999 Bristol Kite Festival. Completely unprompted, Phil echoed my own thoughts on the matter.

How many of us unquestioningly accept the premise that kite flying is a 'green' sport? I've even heard this stated explicitly as a 'fact' on more than one occasion. By comparison with many other modern 'leisure' activities this statement undoubtedly contains an element of truth but things are not quite as straightforward as all that.

The good news is that the direct impact of kite flying on the environment is fairly minimal. One of the major problems, that of noise generated by sports kites, is no longer so pervasive. The practice of tensioning the trailing edges of kite sails and changes in sail design has almost eliminated the 'jack hammer' effect of the typical late 80's and early 90's sports kite. Anyone who ever heard a set of Fire Darts (or similar) in a stiff breeze will know what I mean!

Indirectly, the picture is not quite so rosy. Pull a kite out of your bag and take a good look at it. Unless you fly genuine Indian fighters\* the chances are that your kite is almost entirely a product of the petrochemical industry. Carbon fibre, thermoplastics, epoxy and polyester resins, coated nylon or polyester sailcloth etc etc - none of these materials are bio-degradable and one or two of them are very, very persistent. How many of us think twice before chucking that broken carbon fibre spar in the bin? It may end up out of site and out of mind in a land fill somewhere but I can guarantee you it will still be there long after the end of the next millennium!

Don't get me wrong - I'm not advocating a return to traditional kite building materials (chopping down Spruce trees to make spars doesn't fill me with joy either). I'm as passionate and committed to my chosen 'sport' as any other and welcome its transformation from 'kids stuff' to a mature (ish) industry and all that goes with it - but 100% green? - I think not.

**Mik Jennison (BKF/Brighton)**

*\*Before anyone points it out - yes, I know that the paper industry uses some of the nastiest and most toxic chemicals on the planet but at least the end product is bio-degradable!*

### SUNDERLAND 1999

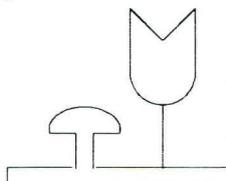
**A** 74-year-old man, tanned the colour of old chestnuts, shirtless and bow-legged made his way to the middle of the field.

"This is a tribute to Malcolm and Jeanette. Without their confidence, support and organisation this kite festival would not be possible" boomed the faceless voice of the tannoy.

The kite lines tightened, bringing two identical silhouetted kites into view. Two ground hands ran to attach a royal blue tail that linked them both together. Could the kites fly side by side? Could one move while the other did its own thing? And would they be able to support each other while they floated effortlessly through the routine? Calming music drifted on the air as the kites climbed higher and higher into the cloudless blue. The sun shone brightly on the spectators, detailing glints reflecting off sunglasses and jewellery as heads were pointed towards the sky. Their hands lay perfectly still at their sides and their eyes were glazed with amazement as the kites danced in the heavens and sung on the clouds. The tail twisted and turned as the kites swirled in endless loops. A hushed silence fell over the crowd as the kites split up and pirouetted to the ground, landing in perfect unison.

A roar went up, hands were waved and eyes were dried. There in the middle of the field stood Ray Bethell, his own hands waving and his eyes smiling. As the crowd dispersed only one image remained in their minds - the moving and beautiful Swan Lake in the sky.

**Vicky Sturrs (Age 13/Sunderland/ With thanks to Ray Bethell)**



## A SMALL EPISODE IN RAY BETHELL'S BUSY LIFE...

I left Vancouver at 4.00am to drive to the International Kite Festival at Long Beach, WA. I arrived at 10.00am and was on the beach by 10.30am. It was a great day... good winds and I flew for 5 hours, packed up and walked back to the parking lot very happy and pleased with myself. It felt really great to have blown the cobwebs off my behind as it had been at least two days since I had last flown.

As I approached my van I caught sight of my friends Brian & Sharon Champie and Dan the Man leaving the parking lot. I put my kites in the van and moved around to the driver's side where a piece of paper caught my eye. It was pinned under my windscreen wiper, so I took it off and sat inside to read it... could this be true?!!! This is what was written - and I quote: 'Ray I love you, I want you bad! Meet me behind the kite shop at 9.00 tonight. You will not be sorry! xoxoxox.' I thought, "Has the news of my World exploits travelled to Long Beach?" - who was this 'damsel in distress'? My mind was racing... was she blond, young, old, fat, skinny? "Never mind that" I thought, "You must live up to your reputation and it looks like the word is out!". I checked my watch: 6.00pm... 3 hours to zero hour; time for a shower, shave, a change of underwear (which is very unusual for me... as I had only changed them 2 weeks ago!!!). Anyway this was a small

price to pay, and besides - I didn't want to let our side down with a little thing like that, "Right men?!"

Then I started to panic!... did I pack them? My mind was racing again - quick, think, when did you last check... Denmark, Holland, France, Germany, UK? Then I remembered that I had yet to check in at the motel - so my suitcase was still in the back of the van. I hurried around, fumbling with the keys trying to open the lock on my case - why did I lock it?... did I think someone was going to steal them? I finally got it open and searched through, throwing stuff out that I had neatly packed a few hours before. I could hear myself scream, "They're not here!". Then I caught sight of the Fisherman's Friend tin box I keep them in... my heart was pounding... I opened it, and yes - there they were, the 'little beauties'... let me count them: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 beautiful little blue Viagra pills! Now let me see... if I take one at 8.30 or should I take two? Oh man - I am so excited!!! "Now wait" I said to myself - you can't take two... remember what happened the next morning in Germany when you had to open the kite festival with a multiple kite ballet and you became the first kite flyer in the World to fly 3 kites on crutches!

"Wow" I had to get my head together. I sat in the van and re-read the note: 'Meet me behind the kite

shop...' but which kite shop? - there are 4 in Long Beach! I started

to smell a rat; someone was having me on... but who would pull something like this on Big Daddy? Then in my mind's eye I saw Brian, Sharon & Dan leaving the parking lot... the same row that I was parked on. I drove to the motel where I was sharing a unit with my friends Gerri & Fred Alder. I showed them the note and right away, like a pair of Siamese twins, they shouted as one, "Brian & Sharon Champie" and I said, "And Dan the Man!". After having a good laugh over it (well Gerri & Fred did anyway!) I went to the bathroom and threw up!

We had been invited that evening to Andy Tauber's 'Fool-B-Cue'. Brian, Sharon and many others would be there also, so we decided that I should play along with their little joke. After we'd been there a short while, I showed the love note to a few people and they gave me the thumbs-up sign. I then showed it to Brian... and old 'poker-face' never even batted an eyelid as he read it and said, "You lucky dog!! You're going of course?". I gave him the thumbs up and left it at that. After the great B-Cue that Andy and his wife put on - Gerri, Fred, Sharon, Brian, Dan, another young lady and myself went to Brian's motel

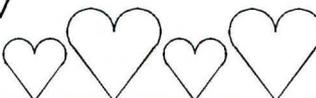
and spent the rest of the evening talking and having a few cold ones - but nothing was mentioned about the love note, it was way past 9.00pm by then anyway.

The next day I saw Sharon on the beach - she was watching the Fighter kites. We chatted a little about this and that, then I showed her the note - hoping she would burst out laughing and tell me it was all a joke - but she said, "Ray you should have gone... you have a reputation to keep up!"

I've had a lot of mail from people that have heard about the joke, and they admire my sense of humour in the way I took the bait... but did I? If I had I would not have gone to Brian's after the B-Q, I would've checked out all 4 kite shops, "Right?". I mean... I am still very virile and strong... and never, ever have I received any complaints from the ladies - in fact quite the opposite.... just ask around! I owe you one Brian, Sharon & Dan... keep looking over your shoulders because one day I'll get my revenge... but that doesn't mean I don't love you guys!

Thanks for the giggle!

**Ray Bethell (BKF/  
Vancouver/  
Canada)**



## UK ADVENTURE '99: PART 2

### BRIGHTON KITE FESTIVAL

**W**ell Sunderland festival was a great success and now I am off to Brighton, but first I will stop half way in the beautiful town of Hereford to relax and spend time with my UK Sport Kite sponsor Peter Taylor of Airdynamics. I have made many friends over the years in Hereford so I will be spending a few days with Peter and friends, before travelling to Brighton with him... this would also give us a chance to talk shop!

During the next few days I checked out Peter's new kite he's been working on: "Very nice" but he has yet to name and put the finishing touches to it. A couple of days were also spent flying on Black

Mountain, Hays Bluff I think it is called, which is about a one hour drive through the beautiful, picturesque and diverse landscape of the English countryside. As I look my mind reaches out for those

bygone days when in my youth this was my playground... who would have thought that I would be back one day to fly kites! I have had the wonderful opportunity to have travelled from one end of the globe to the other many times, yet nothing gives me greater pleasure than to wonder through England's countryside; maybe it's my heritage "Who knows?". Hays Bluff is a perfect place to fly kites, with acres of open ground and Peter and I spent many happy hours flying there. I gave my Prism Prophies and Peter's new kite a good test, plus checking out my other kites and lines ready for Brighton.

After 4 days of relaxing we were on our way - reaching Stanmer Park at 10.30am, where the two day

festival was being held. It's a beautiful park with lots of room but a little hilly... however, when in Rome do as the Romans do: "Grin and bare it"! Everything was set up including a pukka beer tent that was put as close as possible to where I was going to fly - I think Toody Oakhill had something to do with that... "Bless her heart!".

The wind was up and down and very gusty but the weather was beautiful. Brighton was celebrating its 21st kite festival, also this would be the last one of 6 that Ray Oakhill has organised - he has done an awesome job over the years. Many of the international kite flyers were there that I had shared the flying arenas with at the Sunderland festival last week: Iqbal Husain from Switzerland, Mathias Rosbund from Germany and Marla

### BKF ONE SKY ONE WORLD 1999

**A** total of 70 kites were flown at the event which was held at Devil's Dyke on Sunday 10 October. This figure has been sent to One Sky One World HQ in Denver, Colorado - where it will be added to the numbers registered from other fly-ins for World peace taking place all over the planet on the same day.

For more info check out the OSOW website at: <http://www.earthnet.net/~jpa/osow/> It's definitely well worth a peek!

**Toody Oakhill (BKF Editor/With thanks to Ray Oakhill)**

Miller from the US. "Hey Marla, we have to stop meeting this way... or people all over Europe will be talking... we are already a hot conversation piece in North America... (anyway shshshss... see you in Germany next week!)!!! Barry Pitman helped me set up for an interview and video for the media, after we got that away Toody Oakhill waltzed over with a nice pint of cider which went down very well, I must say! The park was filling up with spectators, families and children running around flying their kites that they had made at the free kite workshop that was run with great success by Mick & Norma House. The beautiful blue sky was a great backdrop for the endless single line

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the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

kites of every description and awesome colours that were filling the sky over Stanmer Park... Iqbal Husain's kite train plus his many other kites, Jim Rowland's giant clown and frogs, the Midlands Kite Fliers' George Peters' Cat Man and Mantis Man kites flown, together with their inflatable, by Karl & Sarah Longbottom and Jerry & Carolyn Swift, Mathias Rosbund with his Edos and many of his Japanese face kites, just to name a few on this beautiful first day of the festival... oh but I must not forget to mention Roy Broadley's huge Cobra - it looked like it could eat every kite in the air!

The sport kite flyers were doing a great job also in keeping the spectators entertained: Ray Oakhill and Simon Hennessey flying pairs with a stack of 12 Hyperkites each, Bob Cruikshanks flying 30 of Tim Benson's Mini Fizz kites, Paul Thody showing his skills with his stack of 10 Flexifoil Prospeeds, plus some great flying by flyers that were competing in the Trick Out competition: the famous kite flyer and sport kite designer Tim Benson, Sam Eaton, Dan the Man Maroni, also Patrick, Chris, Sean, Animal and Wink plus many more. This competition, by the way, is being sort after in California by Brian Champie one of the best trick flyers, if not 'the best' in California, who is working on incorporating it as another competition event.

My friends Harry Douglas and Richard Nourse were there from Poole and volunteered to be my official ground crew. This was a great help, especially on the Sunday with the Mega Team Fly - which I am pleased to say was a huge success, this was their first and I am sure it will be the grand finale for many of their future festivals. The Saturday evening barbie and liquid

## BORDE HILL GARDENS CHILDRENS' ANIMAL FAIR

- ◆ **Date:** Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May 2000 ◆ **Time:** 10.00am - 5.00pm
  - ◆ **Site:** Borde Hill Gardens/West Sussex ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 322 265
  - ◆ **Contact:** Ray Oakhill ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft AGL
- Tel/Fax: 01273 306842 email: rao@mistral.co.uk

**T**he club has another invite to demonstrate kites and parachute bears at this event. This year we can use the field on the other side of the lakes for kite flying and have permission to camp - water and a toilet will be available. As the event starts at 10.00am kitefliers will need to be on site by about 9.30am. Unfortunately the dates will almost certainly clash with the Swindon Kite Festival.

**Ray Oakhill (BKF Events Co-ordinator)**

refreshments were a smash hit and nobody was feeling any pain by sack time, Toody was in charge of the bar and she kept good care of me!

Sunday was here before we knew it with another awesome day - the wind was just as fickle but it never stopped the sky from even being fuller with kites than it was the previous day. Word must have travelled far and wide as there were twice as many spectators to entertain and entertain them we sure did - even

after the morning after the night before feeling which, by the way, Toody soon cured with the hair of the dog, "Bless her heart" but I think she needed it more than I did! (*I think you could be right there Ray! Ed*)

One of the best things about the European festivals which I have not seen in North America, with the exception of the International Kite Festival at Washington State US, is kite vendors - literally dozens of kite related stalls always packed with eager buyers who are still on a high from what they have just

### 10 GOOD REASONS NOT TO ORGANISE A KITE FESTIVAL...

- 1 If no one else could be bothered, why should you be?
- 2 The number of people willing to give advice is inversely proportional to the number of people willing to help out.
- 3 Friends start to avoid you.
- 4 You can't remember who first said "Wouldn't it be great if..." but you hope they're dead.
- 5 There's never enough money.
- 6 You've lost count of the number of times you've heard "I'd really love to, but..."
- 7 80% of you're 'free' time will be taken up by organising the damned thing, irrespective of how much free time you've got.
- 8 The remaining 20% will be taken up by watching the weather forecast.
- 9 The number of people who will tell you what you should have done... afterwards.
- 10 Private psychiatric care is expensive!

### 1 GOOD REASON TO ORGANISE A KITE FESTIVAL...

- 1 If you don't do it, no one else will. (Actually there's another - but '2 Good Reasons...' doesn't quite have the same effect does it? Try...
- 2 The possibility that someone, somewhere will come up to you afterwards and say, "Thanks - I really enjoyed myself."

**Trickie (BKF/Brighton)**

# aerodyne

January 2000

the newsletter of the brighton kite flyers

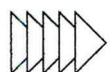
witnessed. I would like to say a few words about Steve, Michael and Linda Howard who are the owners of Force Nine Kites stores. Wherever I perform in the UK they are always there ready to help out replacing spars or whatever, I always get the same answer every time I ask... "How much do I owe you Mike?"... "My pleasure Ray, any time..." and his wife Linda joins in with... "How about a cold one Ray!!!". This is another aspect of kiting that is not often mentioned - the harmony of kite performers and kite store owners "Good stuff!".

As in the Sunderland festival I was again very proud to be part of yet another great International Kite Festival at its very best. I was given two wonderful surprises on the Sunday... two of my Brothers' daughters and their family whom I had not seen or heard from in over 20 years - it was a very heart warming reunion. Toody had something to do with this also (man, can she keep a secret!). The other surprise was being awarded the Brighton Kite Flyers' Shield for Outstanding Contribution to the Sport of Kite Flying, I was very honoured. Looks like I got to come back next year to give it back...

I would like to thank all the Brighton Kite Club members for sponsoring me, plus Toody & Mik and also my hostess Ray & Doreen Oakhill for letting me share your home - for it was indeed 'home from home', especially your cooking: "Yum!"... Doreen you have the wife beaten by a long shot - but I must admit; that after a month away from home I was kind of missing the screwed up fried eggs, soggy chips and burnt toast!

Thank you for listening.

**Ray Bethell (BKF/Vancouver/Canada)**



## BKF FLY-IN REMINDERS

1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH (THROUGHOUT THE YEAR)

- ◆ **Venue:** Ladies Mile Rd/Patcham
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 317 092
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 1500ft AGL
- ◆ **By Bus:** 26/5/5A from Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Top (N) end of road
- ◆ **Time:** From 11.00am onwards
- ◆ **Parking:** On site (with key)

General fly-in day.

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER INCLUSIVE)

- ◆ **Venue:** Stanmer Park/Lewes Rd
- ◆ **Map Ref:** 198 TQ 342 088
- ◆ **Height Clearance:** 200ft AGL
- ◆ **By Bus:** 25/25A from Brighton
- ◆ **Site:** Next to Sussex University
- ◆ **Time:** From 6.00pm onwards
- ◆ **Parking:** On road through site
- ◆ **By Train:** Falmer Station

Flying evening with social bash after at the Swan pub at Falmer.

## ANOTHER ONE OF RAY BETHELL'S FUNNIES!

**R**ay Bethell told me many funny stories when he stayed with me before and after the 1999 Brighton Kite Festival. He is a fantastic joke teller and has an excellent sense of timing, despite being profoundly deaf. Most of his stories are unrepeatable here, but I thought you might appreciate this one. Whether it is true or not is for you to decide:-

*"I had just finished a simultaneous three kite demonstration in the arena and waved back at the crowds, who were all waving and cheering - even though I could not hear them, it was good to know that my performance was appreciated. At the same time Dodd Gross was demonstrating trick flying to a small crowd of enthusiasts in the corner of the same arena. There was plenty of room for both of us, so it didn't worry me.*

### BKF COMMITTEE

- ◆ **Chairperson:**  
Pete Linnell
- ◆ **Secretary:**  
Simon Hennessey
- ◆ **Treasurer:**  
Gill Pitman
- ◆ **Committee Members:**  
Norma House  
Ray Oakhill  
Toody Oakhill  
Alan Outram

*As I walked towards the boundary tape a little old lady beckoned me over. "Mr Bethell" she said, "I have never seen anything so wonderful in all my life. It would really make my day if I could give you a kiss for such a magnificent performance.". Of course, I gave her a kiss and a big hug and thought she would go away happy, but then she said, "Mr Bethell, there's just one other thing: would you mind going over and giving that poor man in the corner some help - he just can't seem to get his kite off the ground."!"*

**Ray Oakhill (BKF Events Co-ordinator/  
With thanks to Ray Bethell)**

## USE THIS SPACE...

**P**lease contribute to your newsletter - even the smallest of items is appreciated. Anything sent to the 'Editor' will be considered for print unless marked otherwise.

- ◆ **Deadlines:** January issue: 1 December/April issue: 1 March  
July issue: 1 June/October issue: 1 September

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Brighton Kite Flyers Editor  
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## FURTHER BKF INFO...

- ◆ **Co-ordinate/Chairperson:**  
Pete Linnell:  
Tel: 01273 683082/email:  
brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Membership Secretary:**  
Corinne Hennessey:  
Tel: 01273 582309  
email: s\_hennessey@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Events Co-ordinator:**  
Ray Oakhill:  
Tel/Fax: 01273 306842  
email: rao@mistral.co.uk
- ◆ **Club Library:**  
Pete Linnell:  
Tel: 01273 683082/email:  
brightonkiteflyers@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Merchandise:**
  - ◆ **Enamel Pins/Cloth Patches:**  
Ray Oakhill:  
Tel/Fax: 01273 306842  
email: rao@mistral.co.uk
  - ◆ **T Shirts & Sweatshirts:**  
Simon Hennessey:  
Tel: 01273 582309  
email: s\_hennessey@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **BKF Web Site Address:**  
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/prchitty>
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival 2000:**
  - ◆ **Confirmed Dates:**  
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 July 2000
  - ◆ **Confirmed Venue:**  
Stanmer Park/Brighton
  - ◆ **Organised by the Brighton Kite Festival Committee:**  
Contact: Simon Hennessey:  
Tel: 01273 582309  
email: s\_hennessey@bigfoot.com
- ◆ **Brighton Kite Festival Web Site Address:**  
<http://www.whizzieworld.free-online.co.uk>

Whilst every care is taken to get the details correct in 'Aerodyne', the BKF cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Brighton Kite Flyers.

# MIDLANDS

# KIITE

# FLIERS

## Extra newsletter

### New Kite Group in the Warwick Area

MKF members are invited to join members of the Warwick District U3A at their kite meetings. Held every 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons in the month, in the Warwick/Leamington Area, usually Newbold Comyn or Warwick Racecourse. The kite group is a new section of the U3A, who are a group of people over 50 years of age.

They meet regularly to do all sorts of activities. Contact Pearl Crompton, 8 Heath Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV32 5LY. Tel: 01926 311874. E-mail: [userpearl@aol.com](mailto:userpearl@aol.com)

Above right the kites of Ray Bethel. A man I once saw at Bristol and was absolutely dumb struck by a kite flyer who could fly three kites simultaneously. Doing it very well if a kite was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time ie on the floor then the other two would be continuing the routine.

As if that was not enough when he got a helper to right the fallen kite then the three would be gracing the skies with a well thought out and very moving routine indeed.

As my then four year old daughter retorted "dad why can't you do that with all your kites".

There is no answer apart from practice, practice, practice. And the way some of us fly we could well do with taking a leaf out of Ray's book and have a go.



# C-Quad 2.2 review

C-Quads are 4 line traction kites, but, and this is a big BUT, they are nothing like traction Foils!

Anyone who has flown 'Revolution's' will recognise some of the C-Quad's flight characteristics. It's best to explore the C-Quad's flying style, before putting your bum in your buggy seat!

## Flying Tips for new C-Quad owners.

1. Do not try and 'Park' the C-Quad at the top of the wind window. It stalls, dives towards you, and dies. ( 5% chance of a relaunch on land, if your lucky! )
2. Get to know the minimum height your kite needs to execute a **downturn**. When flown to the edge of the wind window, the C-Quad begins to stall. A downturn is the only option to remain flying. (Try an upturn and your kite will die!)
3. Unlike Foils, C-Quads do not like 'Pumping'. They don't need it, as they have a 'dynamic frame'. There are no cells to inflate!  
To gain more power, simply 'S' weave the kite, '~~~~~'.
4. If the Trailing edge is noisy/flapping, then you need to pull in the Brake Lines until the noise stops. You will then have **Max Power! and there's a lot of it!**
5. Like a 'Revolution', you can execute **reverse launches**, as well as **Leading edge landings!**

These observations will take the 'head scratching' out of your first C-Quad experiences.

Frustrated flyers, that have approached me, have all commented that it's like "having a different kite in the sky", once they have put them into practice!

There's a lot more to a C-Quad, than meets the eye!

Try putting one back in it's bag for the first time?

But that's another story!

**Steve Walt Webb. E-mail: [waltweb@lineone.net](mailto:waltweb@lineone.net)**



# Invitation to Hatton for that inaugural flight after Santa's been!

.....The W.W.W. invite everybody to Hatton Country World on Sunday 2nd. January 2000 for our Mince Pie meet....There will be the usual hot (well ok luke-warm) mince pies available and due to popular demand, we're hoping to have our world famous hot punch again. Hatton is ideal for families as non-fliers can find plenty to do in the park while we play with our new Xmas prezies. Hatton Country World can be found on the A41 between Knowle and Warwick and is well signposted. for further information, contact Terry on 0121 624 0656 or e-mail me Terry@kites54.freemove.co.uk.

## A few words from our recently elected events co-ordinator.

From Alan Bill your recently appointed events co-ordinator. Firstly you should know that I am the bloke with a beard who wears a daft hat and shorts (most of the time) and attempts to fly most things. My sincere thanks for the honour of being presented as kite flyer of the year 1999. I am tickled pink and somewhat embarrassed.

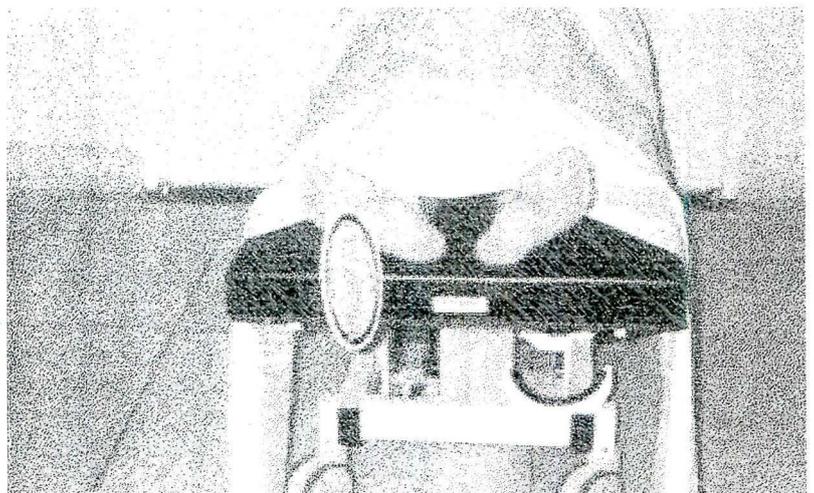
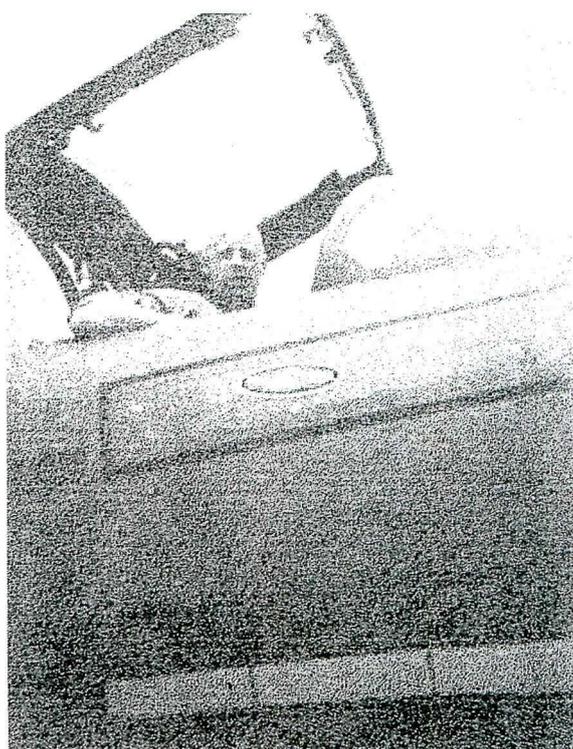
Now to the business of events for the year 2000, at the time of writing. We have six paid festivals booked, 4 have stewards, Stafford castle requires volunteers for two separate dates.

This venue has provided income for the club over several years and subject to weather conditions proves to be very popular public attraction, maybe we could add to the event with a teddy drop or a display of similar single lined kites. Please call with idea's and offers of HELP!!!!!!!

I was asked to report (big Dave) has two flying sites ,coften park, longbridge and aldridge airport, with regards to coften park, this is not a regular venue it was used for the M.K.F in conjunction with British gas as a major festival. Aldridge airport is currently used by local flyers but has no toilets or café facilities and is also used by football teams on a Sunday and model aircraft. There is still plenty of room but parking is restricted for a large event.

That's all for now,  
Have fun!!!

Alan Bill



Picture kindly re-printed with Flexi-foil international Complete approval, just a couple of pics from the past winners of the stick it to win it currently being run by those loveable rogues. Can I also mention that The Flexi team kite surfed the English channel more to come later.

## **MKF Sport Kite Winter League 2000**

We will be running the Sport Kite Winter Leagues again this year, in conjunction with STACK (Sport, Team and Competitive Kiting) - the International body for sport kite flying.

### **What is a Winter League?**

It is a precision competition for dual-line fliers, run during the winter season. In general, they are run by kite shops and clubs on a fairly informal basis, but collectively they can form the basis of a regional league. Leagues are a relaxed introduction and an excellent opportunity for you to meet new fliers and develop your flying skills.

Generally, they are run over the course of three meetings - each being a heat. In each heat you will have to fly four precision figures, together with a launch and a landing. You will need to fly in at least two out of the three to receive a score as your best two scores are averaged to give the final result.

### **Who can enter?**

Anyone - you don't have to pre-register, and you don't have to be a STACK member to enter the competition. Come along on the day and have some fun - we don't want to become too serious, although this can be an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in taking part in the National competitions.

The winner (and possibly the runner-up) of the MKF League will be eligible to compete in the final at the Blackheath Kite Festival, Blackheath, West London on Easter Sunday April 23rd 2000.

### **What do you have to do?**

Three precision figures from the STACK Figures book. Before the day of the heat you should practice these figures in the specified sequence (see below), flown in a neat routine. That is, start with a launch, go straight into the first figure, fly directly to the start of the next figure, fly the second and so on until you have finished the third figure. You should then land.

On the day of the heat, a fourth, surprise figure will be announced at the pilot's meeting (11am) and this will be the last figure in your routine. The four figures must be flown with a smooth but short and clear transition between them. You must call "IN" before you launch so that the judges know when to start judging. Then you fly your four figures and then land and call "OUT" so that the judges stop judging.

In order to make the transition between figures neat, you may want to reverse one or more figures. Reversing means a vertical mirror image of the figure. It is advisable to practice all figures both ways round as the surprise figure may affect the flow of the routine. Remember that if you are reversing any figures, you must advise the judges on the day, prior to flying in the competition. If you do not, you will score zero for that figure.

You will be marked on:

- ◆ the precision of the figure, its size and position within the wind window
- ◆ your continuity between figures
- ◆ the constant speed of the kite.

### **The MKF League**

We are running the League on the same dates, at the same venues, as the MKF Fly-ins. The pilots meeting will be at 11am, when the surprise figure, and the flying order, will be drawn. The league will commence at 1330hrs.

#### Sunday 6th February - Sutton Park

- Figures:
1. Fig. no.8 - Pyramid
  2. Fig. no.10 - Power Dive with Roll
  3. Fig. no.3 - Ladder Down

#### Sunday 5 March - Sutton Park

- Figures:
1. Fig. no.15 - The Dice
  2. Fig. no.23 - Diamond in a Triangle
  3. Fig. no.14 - The Bristols

#### Sunday 2 April - venue to be decided - (see next newsletter)

- Figures:
1. Fig. no.22 - Octagon
  2. Fig. no.1 - Infinity Downwards
  3. Fig. no.38 - Two and a Half Square

As for the surprise figure - I would suggest practicing these figures:

The Jump (4); The Wedge (5); The Mount (6); The Bulb (9); Square Cuts (12); The Hairpin (17); Tubular X (19); Split Figure Eight (30).

## Guidelines

On the day of the league the surprise figure will be drawn at the pilots meeting. This is your opportunity to ask any questions you like to ensure that you know what is expected of you. It is also the time when the draw is made for flying order.

- ◆ When it is your turn to fly, you should take a couple of minutes to fly around the wind window to get a feel for the wind. At this time, select your sky markers - one in the centre and one at each edge, so that you can position your figures correctly, before landing ready for your routine.
- ◆ Whenever you fly a figure, you must first establish the centre of the wind window. Most figures are positioned in the centre, so you should find yourself a clear marker that you can use as a guide. You need to find similar markers to pinpoint the left and right edges too.
- ◆ You will also be scored on the constant speed of your kite, so you must move forward and backwards to control the speed throughout the routine.
- ◆ If you make a mess of the figure, forget it and carry on with the rest. Don't let one mistake affect your concentration. You will be flying for less than two minutes, so you must focus on what is left to do rather than what has past.
- ◆ Safety is paramount - if there are safety issues during a routine, the flyer must call "Safety" and fly to the top of the window and await instructions from the judges. Safety is the only reason for stopping a routine midway through.
- ◆ Disputes will be resolved using the STACK Rule Book - Jim and Julie have a copy for reference.

## Scoring

Your score will be given out of 100. Each figure will be awarded up to 10 points, and the continuity (the launch, the landing and the transition between the four figures) will be awarded up to 10 points. At the end, the total score will be doubled. At the end of the three heats, your final score will be the average of your best two scores out of three.

## Judging

Other UK leagues have separate judges who are not competing, but in previous MKF leagues the competitors have also had the chance to judge - by judging each other. It has worked very well, and we see no reason to discontinue this. Score sheets will be handed out to each competitor on the day.

## Further Information

If you would like a copy of the STACK figures, or any information about the MKF Winter League, contact Jim or Julie White on 01332 669203 - e-mail: [mkf@canleo.demon.co.uk](mailto:mkf@canleo.demon.co.uk)

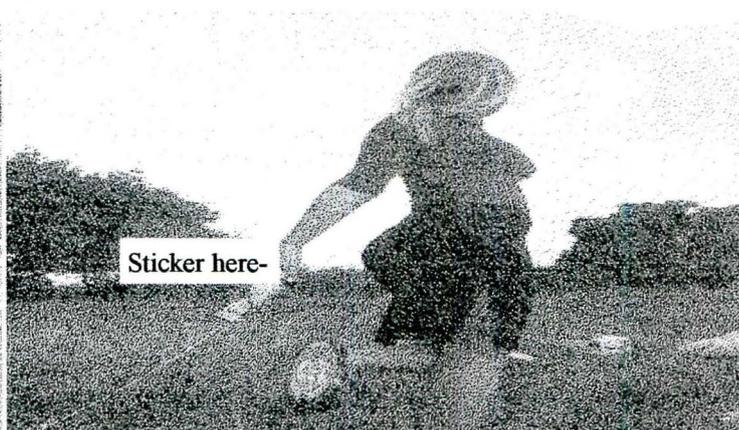
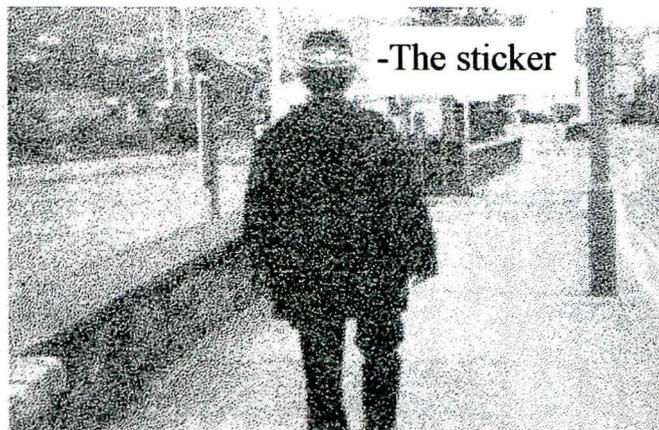
If you have Internet access:

League guidelines are on the STACK website: [www.netspaces.com/stack/](http://www.netspaces.com/stack/)

The STACK figures are available here: [www.kfs.org/kites/stack/skcr3/compbook/compb-0.html](http://www.kfs.org/kites/stack/skcr3/compbook/compb-0.html)

The animated STACK figures are available on Roy Reeds (brilliant) site: [www.reeddesign.co.uk/kitestak.htm](http://www.reeddesign.co.uk/kitestak.htm)

past winners of Flexi-foil international stick it to win competition "I wonder if he was aware he had been stickered"?



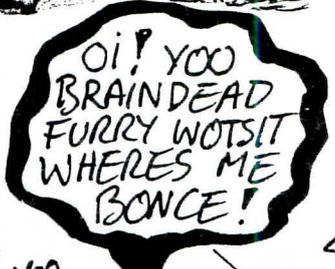


# ROMAN CANDLE 50A



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Only one Year to go till the 21st Century and we are already laying claim to the Title of Biggest Load of Crap, whoops sorry, Biggest Load of Mindless Drivel in Century, wait for it, YEA, PONTOON!

Those were the Days My Friend  
We thought they'd Never End  
(AND THEY NEVER WILL)



# HANG GLIDING MAKES A CHANGE FROM AAARGHHH, "SPLAT" CHUTE BOMBING.....

Everyone is familiar with the old saying, "If Pigs Could Fly" and if your name is Simon Hennessey, you know that "Could" does not enter into it, Pigs do fly. O.K. they don't have wings that they flap wildly, no, Simons pigs fly via a very natty line in model Hang Gliders.

Right, let's get it over with here and now. The main contender in this Porky Tail ?? in a pink Pig of a soft cuddly persuasion called Scratchy, did have an other half by the name of Boiled (more later) and a couple of sprogs called Fried and Grilled. Scratchy does most of the Hang Gliding, which does include the obligatory number of total cock-ups, you know, the sort where the Pig and the Hang-Glide falls out of the sky like a sack of Spuds, but mainly the device flies like a dream and lands quite nicely.

Some of the Flights have been truly remarkable, including one memorable one at Ardingly a couple of years ago where the outfit took off for a grand tour of the showground performing left and right turns as if under Radio Control, eventually returning almost back to where it started and leaving the assembled audience of Kite loonies totally Gobsmacked.

Enter the one and only Electric Arthur Dibble. Arthur, much amused by the Hang Gliding Porker, asked Simon to draw up the plans for inclusion in R.C. (bin there, seen it, asked for it, as with Mik Jennisons Parascending Chute, given up hope, BOF) but to no avail, all together now, AArrrrrr, but, is Arthur downhearted? and of course the answer is not on your Nelly, he just gets on with one of his famous cigarette packet drawings and what you see here is the end result.

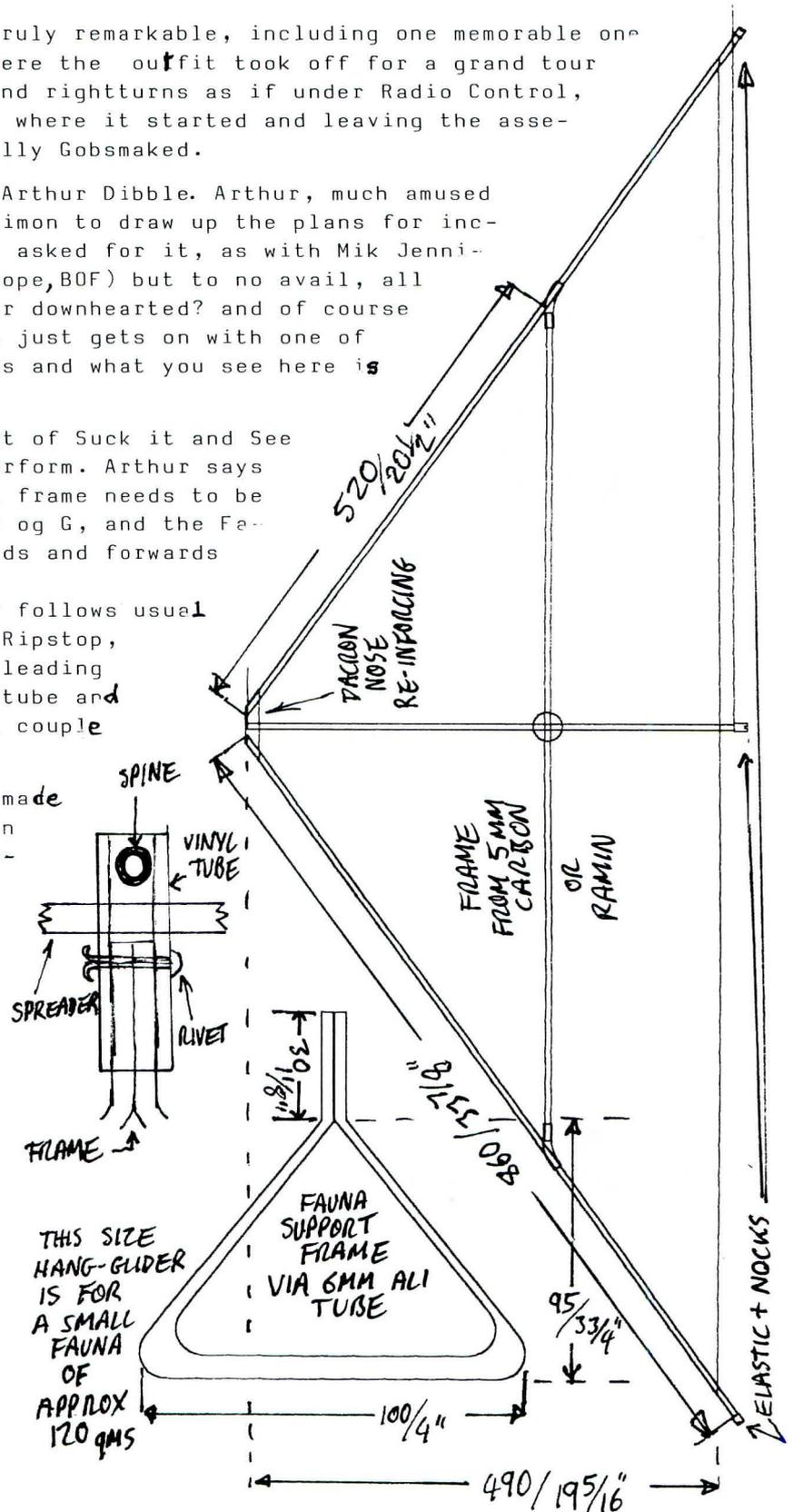
As with everything a fair amount of Suck it and See is required to get the device to perform. Arthur says that the spreader and Fauna support frame needs to be positioned a little forward of the C of G, and the Fauna itself needs to be moved backwards and forwards until the best result is obtained.

Construction of the Hang Glider follows usual methods of Kite construction, i.e. Ripstop, Hemmed for the Spreader, Spine and leading edge Spars. Joints via clear vinyl tube and a couple of pieces of elastic and a couple of Arrow Nocks for Sail tensioning.

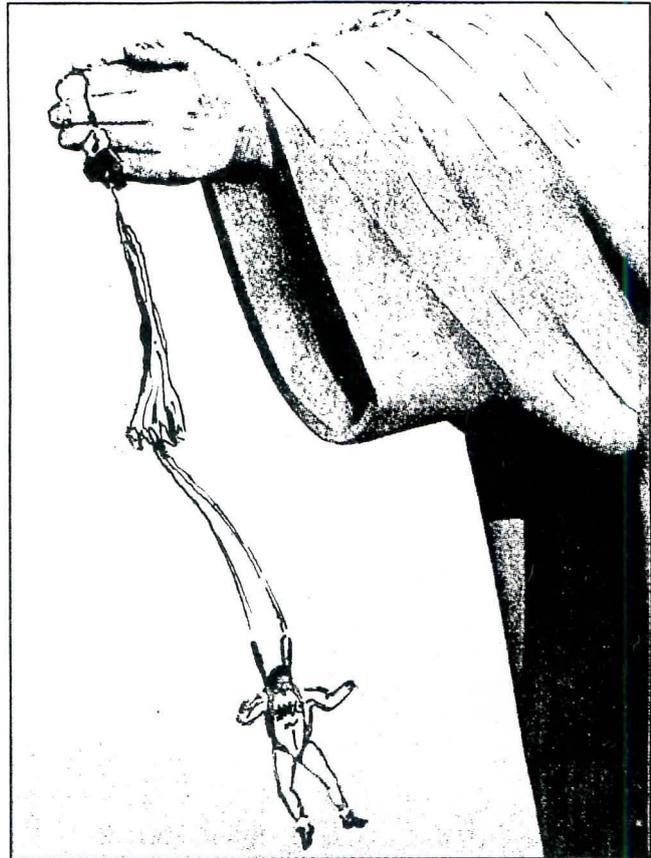
The Fauna support frame can be made from a piece of Ali tube, bearing in mind that Simon Says that on his original Mk1. Austerity model Scratchy was tied onto the spreader with two high-Tec pieces of String, so the actual attachment of your own Fauna can be via whatever takes your fancy.

Arthur says that if you have a go at a Hang Glider, let him know how it goes and what you did in the way of Demon Tweaks to improve its performance. Contact Arthur via [www.dibble.mcmail.com](http://www.dibble.mcmail.com)

Scratchy's other half, not seen for ages, funnily enough Simons Hang Glider sports a remarkable tail composed of what looks like a load of Back Bacon Rashers, Hmm, did Boiled really run off with the Milkman as alledged or is she still with us, though in slightly different form.....



# Parachutist takes giant leap of faith



**OH, NO, NOT ANOTHER "HOW CAN WE OUTDO THOSE SODDING TEDDYBEARS CAPER"** WHEN AN AUSTRIAN BASE Jumper by the name of Felix Baumgartner, leapt from the Right Hand of the World famous 120ft Statue of Christ, atop the 2,000ft high Mount Corcovado in Brazil. The successful jump came after Baumgartner smuggled his Parachute onto the little train which takes visitors up the mountain to visit the Statue.

Once at the base of the Statue, he scaled the figure, no mean feat in itself, then after attaching his static line to the figures outstretched right hand, he jumped. A spokesman for the Tourist Authority said that they did have advance warning of the stunt, but were caught completely unawares.

The illegal sport of BASE jumping attracts participants from all over the world who vie with each other to be the first to jump from any structure of note. However although Base jumpers perform some pretty hair raising descents, we have yet to see any of them try to emulate what the "PAWS" Mob did a few years back, i.e. Parachute from a Kite inside the Hindenburg Hanger at Lakehurst, New Jersey, Hmmm, now theres a challenge.....

## A flash landing

**TWENTY** nude skydivers braved temperatures of **-10C (14F)** in a bid to make the world's biggest naked formation jump.

They leapt from **15,000ft (4,575m)** but winds split the team up at Gothenburg, Sweden.

Diver Anders Helgesson said: "Our sport is very healthy."

## MIND YOU, ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE A GO AT HUME

Parachutists from time to time, you only have to read the piece on the right to realise that they pay heavy price when it goes pearshaped, and though they may bounce when they hit the deck, unlike Parafauna of a Soft Cuddley Toy Persuasion, they seldom recover and do it again and again.

Having seen video of jumping from El Capitan, even if you are off your trolley, it surely takes some Balls to launch yourself off that sheer Rockface in the first place.

Whether or not the Naughty Naked Nudette Naturelle Skydive Nutters out to break the Naked formation world record are BASE jumpers, we do not know, however, doing that must send a fair George Raft up your KHYBER, and give your dangley bits a right seeing to,

**BASE...Buildings, Antennas, Spans, Earth. El Capitan is classed, Earth.**

## Protest plunge

**A 60-YEAR-old grandmother protesting at restrictions on dangerous parachute jumping at Yosemite National Park in California plunged to her death from the 3,000ft El Capitan peak when her parachute failed to open.**

## IS 8,600 SQUIDS WORTH NEVER HAVING BEEN LOVED?.....

Whilst the finding of these two Teddy Bears hidden during the first World War was a stroke of luck for the anonymous vendors and also for those who purchased them, having two pristine Steiff Bears from that period also has an underlying tinge of sadness about it.

### Teddy bears fetch £8,600

Two teddy bears hidden in a Smith's crisp tin during the First World War were sold for £8,625 at Christie's, South Kensington, yesterday.

The 12in German Steiff bears, which were found recently by the anonymous vendors, had never been played with.

No doubt the purchasers of the Bears will give them a very good home, but due to their age and the price paid for them, one cannot imagine that they will ever be played with. Cherished? no doubt, Loved? Arguable, and thats the sadness. Those Bears may be in immaculate condition for their age, but they will probably never ever be Loved.

the cynics out there will say so what, better they remain as made all those years ago than to have ended up Motheaten, Battered and Knocked about, but the true Teddy Bear or for that matter any furry of a soft cuddley persuasion lover will have another opinion, so lets hear it for Furries that have been loved, and above all Bashed, Battered, Thudded, Splatted and Gunged after Parachuting from Kites..

Not so sure that the Plod who gave the Motorcyclist a Tug on the A12 was being a complete Burke as implied in this piece from the ELA. Maybe the Motorcyclist was a bit peeved about being given a Tug, but maybe the Plod had a more developed sense of humour than the obviously Weaned on Prunes Biker. never thought we'd say this about Bikers "Get a Life you Sad Git"

So here we are in the Run-Up to the Millenium that aint(yoo wot) wondering if all the Prophets of Doom and Gloom have got it right and its The End of the World as we Know It, or have we been fed a right load of Bull, perhaps a bit like the er, Eclipse, remember the load of old cobblers we were fed before that, we cannot tell, but if you are reading this and all is peaceful whilst you await the mayhem of the coming Season, then all well and good.

However, if you are reading this amongst the wreckage left after your House was stormed by the Mob, after your stash of Bog Rolls, which you had so thoughtfully laid in store, **THEN DONT BLAME US, WE KNOW NUFFING.**

Of course thats what they all say, but in our case, its totally true. We cant even say that we're looking for clues at the scene of the crime, 'coa we've never been able to see the wood for the Trees.

From Essex comes a strong challenger for September's PC Brains. The East London Advertiser tells of a motorcyclist pulled over on the A12 while riding home from a funfair with the 5ft-teddy bear he had won there strapped to his back. Why, the unnamed traffic cop demanded to know, was the passenger not wearing a helmet too?

## DOES'NT TIME FLY WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.....

### STILL LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT DROP



We almost let it go by without commenting on the fact that the Year just gone was the 20th Year of publication of the August Periodical that enables your quarterly dose of Mindless Drivel to arguably the larger part of its readership, be delivered. We know that there are some out there who wish to see the demise of R.C. though wether or not they could replace it with at least 17 years of some other running Gag is to say the least a bit doubtful, especially as those of that ilk would never get off their Arses.

So Three Cheers to Gill and Jon Bloom, 20 years you dont get that for Murder, well done.

So, we've huffed and we've puffed into the Milly-any-um, so its the usual to the Teddttorial c/o, The Boring Old Fart, 48.Laurel Lane, West Drayton, MIDDx, UB7.7TY, U.K.

hear the one about the Ted who got done for Drug Abuse, he kept going into Boots the Chemists and swearing at the Asprins.

**HAVE  
YOU  
CAUGHT  
THE  
MILLENNIUM  
BUG?**

**ONLY 248 DAYS TO GO**

